

Hafa Adai!

Garapan revitalization plan now at A&E design phase. **PAGE 3**
Man faces murder raps for allegedly shooting ex's car. **PAGE 4**

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CNMI logs its 20th COVID death; 100,150 vaccines administered



GRADUATION CEREMONY

The graduating firefighters address senior drill instructor Lt. Robert Cruz as they are dismissed following the 14th cycle Fire Academy Graduation last Friday at the Kensington Resort Saipan.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

CNMI updates quarantine protocols

Effective yesterday, Jan. 10, 2022, quarantine length for unvaccinated travelers will be shortened to five days after testing out negative on Day 5. Unvaccinated in-bound travelers are required to quarantine in a designated government facility for five

days, and will not be tested on arrival but will be tested before leaving quarantine.

This change is part of the latest updates to the CNMI's quarantine protocols in accordance with U.S. Centers for Disease and Control's

See CNMI on Page 4

Torres wants an off-island judge to handle his suit



Torres



Bellas

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Believing that no local judge can truly be impartial in handling his lawsuit against the House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations Com-

See TORRES on Page 4

» Vaccination rate now at 97%
» 49 new positive cases

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI reported its 20th COVID-19-related death late Sunday night, just a day before the CNMI marked a milestone in its fight against the pandemic, registering a total of 100,150

COVID-19 vaccines, according to the Stay Safe CNMI webpage on Facebook.

The latest fatality—the CNMI's 17th COVID-19-related death since Oct. 28, 2021—comes as the CNMI hit a 97% full vaccination rate yesterday.

See DEATH on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 5:37pm, Jan. 10, 2022

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: **97%**

Days since last community transmission **2**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	37,030
Fully Vaccinated:	35,579
Moderna	
Initiated:	5,297
Fully Vaccinated:	5,091
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	1,117

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	20,809	309	21,118
Recovered	19,093	74	19,167
Active	1,442	309	1,679
Deaths	274	0	272*

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	3,598	49	3,647
Traced via Travel Screening	360	6	366
Traced via Community Screening	3,238	43	3,281
Deaths	19	1	20

* Two COVID-19 positive patients whose deaths were previously reported as COVID-19-related fatalities were later found not to be the result of COVID-19.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



INSIDE



BUSINESS

Millions with no paid sick leaves are having to choose between their health and their paycheck.

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NATION

A total of 19 people including nine children are killed in a fire that hit a Bronx apartment building.

PAGE 12



ASIA

Kazakhstan authorities said that 164 people, including a 4-year-old girl, were killed in a week of protests.

PAGE 13



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

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Local

Man accused of strangling another over marijuana pipe

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Superior Court imposed a \$10,000 cash bail on a man who allegedly strangled another man because he had asked for his marijuana pipe back.

During a bail hearing, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho imposed a \$10,000 cash bail on Anthony Borja Cepeda, 51,

for allegedly strangling a man and slapping the man's girlfriend because the victim asked Borja to return his marijuana pipe.

Cepeda, who is facing charges of assault and battery, assault, and disturbing the peace, was remanded back to Department of Corrections custody and was ordered to return to court for a preliminary hearing on Jan. 12 at 10am

and for an arraignment on Jan. 24 at 9am.

Assistant public defender Emily Thompson represented Cepeda during the hearing while assistant attorney general Carmen Borja appeared for the government.

According to court documents, police had responded to a disturbance in San Antonio last Jan. 4, 2022. At the scene, the victim told police

that problem started when he sent a text message to Cepeda, asking him to return a marijuana pipe that the defendant had borrowed.

The victim said he was inside his apartment when Cepeda walked to the front of his apartment unit and started shouting his name and cussing at him. The victim said Cepeda threatened to kill him, beat him up, and

break his head.

When the victim tried to call 911, he said Cepeda became aggressive and walked toward the victim and started pushing him. Cepeda then grabbed the victim by the shirt with his left hand while using his right hand to strangle his neck. When the victim managed to get away, Cepeda allegedly followed him inside the house and

punched him several times.

The victim's girlfriend attempted to stop Cepeda, but the defendant allegedly slapped her with his right hand on the right cheek.

Shortly after, Cepeda's brother entered the apartment and pulled Cepeda out of the unit, putting a stop to the commotion. Cepeda and his brother then left the scene in a sedan.

NMTech beefs up online learning capacity, student website

BY JOSHUA SANTOS
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Technical Institute is currently

working on improving its network infrastructure, hardware, and its capabilities to support online learning.

During her "CEO's Report"

during an NMTech board of trustees meeting last week, NMTech chief executive officer Jodina Attao said that NMTech is working on working on net-

work infrastructure projects that include setting up servers, purchasing hardware, and rerouting and rewiring all cables at NMTech's Lower Base facility.

It was later learned during the financial portion of Attao's report that NMTech has requested from the CNMI government \$418,287 in American Rescue Plan Act funding to back the school's network infrastructure and internet services.

She also said that arrangements to purchase new com-

puters for staff and a student computer lab are in the works, along with annual Zoom subscriptions for instructors in case the school is required to transition to full online learning for COVID-19-safety reasons.

As for NMTech's current computers that will soon be swapped out, Attao said one idea is to provide the computers to the Department of Corrections for inmates to complete their courses online. *Saipan Tribune* earlier reported that 14 DOC inmates are participating in a pilot program that allows them to take

introductory trades courses through NMTech.

Regarding the NMTech student website, Attao shared with the board that within six months the website will have student registration applications; financial aid applications; course descriptions, costs, and syllabi; and links to online course platforms for ease of access uploaded to the site.

Attao said the website has been launched and work is underway to upload more content to the website.

The student website is <http://www.nmtechenmi.org>.

Santos tells OIA about Rota's need to improve its ports



File photo of the East Harbor on Rota.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) has backed the Commonwealth Ports Authority's Rota application for the Maintenance Assistance Program under the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs for the island's ports.

Santos said this grant is critical as it will support, develop, improve, and institutionalize infrastructure maintenance at both Rota's airport and seaport.

The senator recently informed Rota Ports manager Sharlene Manglona that she already wrote DOI to support CPA's application for MAP.

"During these difficult economic times, it is imperative that we seek other financial resources to implement our limited coffers," said Santos

in the letter to Keone Nakoa, who is the DOI deputy assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs.

The senator said the federal-state-local partnership has proved its value in measurable economic improvements. She said continued partnership is absolutely necessary to the future economic viability of the region.

Santos said she understands firsthand the critical importance of securing and maintaining well-developed ports and recognize the significance of the Maintenance Assistance Program. She said the improvements provided through these funds will not only benefit the ports but will greatly benefit the people as well.

The DOI's Office of Insular Affairs announced last month that applications for

fiscal year 2022 funding under MAP may now be submitted to [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) for funding consideration to support the CNMI and other U.S. territories, as well as the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

Nakoa said they are especially interested in activities that will support maintenance training to extend the life of island infrastructure, ensure the safety of maintenance technicians, and/or increase the capacity of infrastructure to withstand extreme weather events.

MAP funding is available for projects intended to develop insular institutions that improve the operation and maintenance of infrastructure in the island areas.

Deadline for submission is April 1, 2022.

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Garapan revitalization plan now at A&E design phase

» 'Private properties warned of illegal encroachments'

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

Giving Garapan a facelift is on everybody's wish list and the Garapan Revitalization Task Force is already well on its way toward that goal, with Office of Planning and Development deputy director Chris Concepcion disclosing that they are now in the initial or architecture & engineering, or A&E, design phase, which began just last month.

"We are now doing land surveys to determine where illegal encroachments are, and [doing] a topographic survey to determine any elevation changes, and the location, size and height of all features and improvements located in the right of way. We expect the surveys to be completed this month," he said. "In the meantime, our design team has been gathering data and documents from stakeholder agencies. We'll be meeting with our landscape architect next week to see what types of trees, flowers and plants are feasible given the proximity to the ocean and soil conditions in the area."

The A&E design phase is expected to be completed in four to five months before moving on to the "construction phase."

"The construction phase will be the main phase of the project since because of this, we will get to see the physical transformation of Garapan Core. All work will take place only within the public right of ways. Private property owners are responsible for any improvements on their own properties," Concepcion said.

This early, the Garapan Revitalization Task Force is giving fair warning to private property owners who have built unauthorized structures on public lands that they must remove them at their own expense to make way for new and improved streets and sidewalks.

"There may be legal consequences for those who fail to cure any unauthorized encroachments. The CNMI government has procedures in place that will be followed, and we intend to work collaboratively with business owners and [the Department of Public Works] to ensure a smooth and efficient process is followed," he said.

The Garapan Revitalization Task Force was formed in 2019 and is funded by an \$11.2-million grant from the Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Concepcion said that EDA gave them a five-year window

to complete the project. "... But our internal estimates had us at 36 months, barring any complications with construction materials, supplies, labor, manpower, natural disasters, or other issues. ... The initial grant proposal we submitted to EDA in 2019 was based on cost estimates at the time. However, we are aware that construction costs have gone up significantly since the COVID-19 pandemic hit so we are leaving all options on the table in terms of additional funding needs for the future."

He acknowledged that the COVID-19 pandemic has slowed down their efforts to complete this project.

"With the government shutdowns and the spread of the virus in our community, we are forced to recalibrate our proposed time frame for project completion. However, we never stopped working, even during the government shut-

downs, so we feel [that], with the strong partnerships we've built with our stakeholders, we are able to still move forward," he added.

The improvement and development in the Garapan Core is not only expected to garner interest from people all over the world or lure more tourists from our usual tourism markets but also to give residents an environment that understands their well-being.

"We want to assure the community that we are all on the same page when it comes to the revitalization of Garapan. This has always been the economic center of our tourism industry and we all want to see it improved. Our goal is to clean out all the blight that has been accumulating over the last 20 years or so and replace them with brand new infrastructure," Concepcion said.

All enhancements will



The revitalization of the Garapan Core is an important project that will roll out in the coming months, according to Office of Planning and Development of the Governor's Office deputy director Chris Concepcion.

BEA CABRERA

only take place within the public right of ways, not on private properties, Concepcion said. "We will re-grade and re-pave each street in the Garapan Core, add sidewalks and curbs on both sides of each street, add lighting, landscaping, and street parking. Businesses will start to see the improvements, which

we hope will encourage them to improve their own properties, enticing more entrepreneurs to open restaurants, cafés, gift shops, museums, art galleries, cultural centers, bars, clubs, clothing stores, and other businesses typically found in tourist resort areas. We can expect to see property values increase with

all the improvements we will be making," he added.

Garapan's revitalization is also a part of the Marianas Visitors Authority's 10 years Sustainable Tourism Plan. "The community can expect to see us break ground in the next several months. When construction begins, there will be minor inconveniences for motorists and pedestrians while the project gets underway. We aim to do the project in phases so that any disruptions will be minimal. We seek everyone's patience and understanding as we get this project done as quickly and smoothly as possible," Concepcion said.

"It's been a long time coming and we want to thank Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres, Lt. Gov. [Arnold I.] Palacios, members of the House and Senate, and all stakeholders for their patience and support as we roll this important project out in the coming months," Concepcion added.

Hafa Adai
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Man faces murder raps for allegedly shooting ex's car



By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

A man has been arrested on

an attempted murder charge after he allegedly shot his former girlfriend's car while her daughter was driving the vehicle and she was the passenger.



Department of Public Safety officers arrest Bradley Hocog after he allegedly shot at a vehicle driven by his former girlfriend's daughter along Beach Road, Susupe late yesterday afternoon. Other photo shows the hole that the bullet punctured on the side of the car.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Tribune learned from a credible source that Bradley Hocog, a resident of Dan Dan, was arrested around 6pm yesterday for allegedly shooting at his former girlfriend's car.

Hocog was brought to the Department of Corrections at around 7pm to be booked and detained.

According to the source, the victim was driving along Beach Road, Susupe when Hocog, who was in the passenger seat of Labian Muna's car, pulled up beside the victim and shot at the car. Muna is Hocog's current girlfriend.

Fortunately, both the ex-girlfriend and her daughter were unharmed and did not suffer any injuries from the shooting because Hocog missed the driver's side. However, the

bullet did puncture the door behind the driver's side.

Muna, who had her children in the vehicle at the time of the shooting, was not arrested yesterday. Police did tow her car after the shooting was reported and after Hocog was arrested.

Hocog's former girlfriend said that she took out a restraining order against Hocog prior to the incident. She believes that after noticing the car along Beach Road, he fired at the car believing that she was its driver.

Saipan Tribune tried to get comments from the Department of Public Safety regarding the arrest but no information on the incident was available as of press time.

It was later learned that police were still investigating the incident.

CNMI

From Page 1

guidance, according to a news release from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

The news release cited the high full vaccination rate of the CNMI—approximately 96.7% of the CNMI's eligible population—combined with the expansion of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine booster shot eligibility to 12- to 17-year-olds as the reasons why the CNMI's quarantine protocols are being updated.

The safety of the residents of the CNMI remains the top priority of the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and the CHCC, the news release stated.

As part of the new protocol, all fully vaccinated inbound travelers will be tested for COVID-19 on arrival. This applies to children ineligible for a COVID-19 vaccine but are residing in a fully vaccinated household. Fully vaccinated travelers will be tested at the port of entry and are allowed to wait for their test result in their home/lodging. While waiting for the results of their COVID-19 test, the traveler must quarantine at home or lodging until results are received. No fifth-day test is required for fully vaccinated travelers.

Fully vaccinated individuals

IN BRIEF

- Quarantine for unvaccinated travelers shortened to five days after testing negative on Day 5. Unvaccinated inbound travelers are required to quarantine in a government facility for five days.
- Unvaccinated inbound travelers will not be tested on arrival but will be tested before leaving quarantine.
- Fully vaccinated travelers will be tested at airport and allowed to wait for test result in their home/lodging.
- No fifth-day test is required for fully vaccinated travelers.

are responsible for uploading onto their health declaration form proof of completing a COVID-19 vaccine series. The vaccination record must include the following information: vaccine administrator, recipient's name, recipient's date of birth, vaccination site, vaccine name, vaccination administration date, lot number, and vaccine expiration date.

In addition to being fully vaccinated, a qualified essential worker must submit a negative PCR test with their application 72 hours prior to arrival via www.staysafecnmi.com.

For travelers vaccinated outside the CNMI, in addition to the CDC Vaccination Record Card, an official immunization record or an attestation statement may be required by the CHCC Communicable Disease Investigation/Inspection team. The attestation statement confirms that the information provided in the health declaration form is true and is subject to CNMI laws that may lead to criminal

finances. For individuals who were vaccinated in the CNMI, vaccination records from the CHCC will be used to verify vaccination status.

All travelers are encouraged to fill out their health declaration form prior to arrival at www.staysafecnmi.com.

All travelers and residents are reminded to live COVID-19 safe: follow the 3 W's (wear your mask, wash your hands, and watch your distance); avoid crowds and poorly ventilated spaces; cover coughs and sneezes; clean and disinfect high touch surfaces daily; be alert for symptoms daily; and get tested for COVID-19.

Any individual who tests positive for COVID-19 will be quarantined in the designated government facility for 10 days, starting after their test result date. Home isolation protocols are available if an individual can provide evidence that they can home isolate safely for 10 days, without putting others in the household at risk of infection. If it is determined that the

individual cannot safely isolate at home (e.g., they live with a family member who has underlying health conditions or is immunocompromised), isolation at the designated government facility will be ordered.

The new COVID-19 Community Center located at the Kobler Youth Center is open to serve the community of Saipan seven days a week including holidays, from 8am to 4pm.

The CCC is a hub where individuals can obtain their COVID-19 results, get confirmatory testing done (after referral from DFEMS or a private clinic), get assessed for monoclonal antibody treatment, and obtain guidance on all COVID-19 matters, including what to do if they are a close contact of a positive patient.

Individuals requesting test results from the community-based testing hosted at Pacific Islands Club may call the following numbers: (670) 785-9972, 785-9973, 785-9970, 785-9968, 785-9966.

Individuals identified as positive cases and seeking COVID-19 monoclonal antibody treatment can be assessed at the CCC, and may either receive the treatment at the CCC or be referred to the Alternative Care Site at Kanoa Resort.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

TORRES

From Page 1

mittee, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres wants the NMI Judiciary to appoint a judge from outside of the CNMI who has no ties to any CNMI politician to handle the lawsuit.

In line with this, Torres, through his counsels, wrote the CNMI Superior Court to express his opposition to the appointment of former associate judge Timothy Bellas as the judge in his lawsuit against the JGO committee.

In a letter to Superior Court clerk of court Patrick Diaz, Torres—through his lawyers: Gilbert Birnrich, Joseph Horey, and Richard Miller—said that neither Bellas nor any other CNMI judge should serve as judge in his lawsuit against the JGO committee.

"The governor believes that neither Judge Bellas nor any other current or former CNMI judge should serve as judge pro tempore in this matter. The CNMI is a small community; there is scarcely a family that does not have ties to the government and a history of close political allegiances. So extensive are these ties that all five sitting Superior Court judges have had to disqualify themselves for one reason or another," Torres' counsel wrote.

The letter further explains that no local judge can truly detach themselves in this matter due to the CNMI community being so small that there are bound to be ties in some way.

"In light of the highly partisan atmosphere surrounding the governor's ongoing dispute with the committee, the governor believes that no single CNMI judge, current or former, can either be truly insulated from it or, no less important, be perceived by the public, reasonably or not, as insulated from it," the lawyers state.

Torres' counsel noted that,

although he opposes the appointment of a local judge to his suit, he does not doubt the integrity of the CNMI judges but rather, it is important that the public does not perceive the proceedings to be one-sided.

Torres said the only way to avoid this perception is for the court to appoint a judge outside of the CNMI who has no ties to any CNMI politician to ensure there is no foul play.

"The governor has great faith in the ability and integrity of CNMI judges, but sometimes the better part of judgment is knowing when to step away. This case, more than almost any other, cries out for appointment of a judge from outside the CNMI, who has no ties or allegiances, real or perceived, to CNMI politicians. In the highly charged political atmosphere surrounding this case, it is essential that there be no public perception whatsoever that the judge may be partial politically to one side or the other. The losing side may well want to cry foul, yet it is in the best interest of the whole community, as well as the health of political debate in the Commonwealth, that no hook be provided for either side to hang its hat on. This can only be attained by having a judge from outside the Commonwealth preside in the Superior Court," the letter stated.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Bellas was appointed last December 2021 to hear the lawsuit filed by Torres against the JGO committee over its decision to hold him in contempt.

The appointment of Bellas to serve in the matter pro tempore, or for the time being, came after all five CNMI Superior Court judges recused themselves from hearing the lawsuit.

Bellas has served as a justice and judge pro tem of both the CNMI Supreme and Superior Court since 2002.

DEATH

From Page 1

In the same news release on Sunday night, the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. also reported that 49 individuals were confirmed positive for COVID-19 through surveillance and travel testing on Jan. 8. Of these 49 new cases, 30 were found through contact

tracing, 13 through community testing, and six through travel testing. CHCC reported that all 49 have been isolated and are being actively monitored. CHCC also reported that the vaccination statuses of the new cases were pending verification.

As of Jan. 8, there have been 2,898 recoveries and 442 active cases since Oct. 28. As of Jan. 9, there were 12 active hospitalizations: six unvaccinated, six vac-

inated, one a ventilator, and one was discharged.

Upgrade your cloth masks

In related news, during a radio news briefing last Friday CHCC chief executive officer Esther L. Muña advised swapping out cloth face masks for surgical face masks to better protect yourself against COVID-19 and its highly transmissible variants.

"There's been a lot of ques-

tions about the type of mask to use with the highly-transmissible omicron and delta [COVID-19 variants]. When I see people wearing cloth masks, I often have to tell them to please make sure you have a [surgical face mask] under, or do not use the cloth mask at all," said Muña.

Along with recommending the commonly-found surgical face masks, Muña also recommended using N95 or KN95 face masks.

By JOSHUA SANTOS
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REPORTER

The shift to testing inbound travelers for COVID-19 on arrival is aligned with the focus on collecting specimens and sending them to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to identify COVID-19 variants.

That’s according to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther L. Muña, who explained dur-

We’re looking for omicron—Muña

ing a radio news briefing last Friday that the aim to identify which COVID-19 variant is trying to penetrate the CNMI, especially the latest variants of the disease such as the omicron variant.

“We had shifted to [testing] on arrival because we are looking for omicron, and those tests are being sent to the CDC for sequencing and to

determine exactly what type of variant there is,” said Muña.

Last month, CHCC announced that all fully vaccinated inbound travelers will be tested for COVID-19 on arrival effective Dec. 20, 2021. As of CHCC’s latest update to the CNMI’s travel protocols, all fully vaccinated travelers are still required to be tested on arrival.

She said the collected COVID-19 specimens are sent directly to CDC headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia and added that the CDC has provided “a lot of support” by prioritizing the CNMI samples, especially as the CNMI is still in a surge of COVID-19 cases.

Muña also said that CHCC is looking into having variant-identifying equipment in the

CNMI so that COVID-19 variants are identified much quicker. Quick identification is crucial, she said, especially when some COVID-19 therapeutics are proving to be ineffective against the omicron variant.

In preparation for omicron, Muña said that CHCC has ordered a supply of Sotrovimab, a monoclonal antibody treat-

ment that is reportedly one of the few MAB treatments effective against the variant.

She added that the omicron variant has not been found in the CNMI for now, but that recent specimens sent for identification have come back as the delta variant.

“As we are seeing all across the U.S., [omicron’s] likely going to be here, it’s just a matter of when. Right now, a lot of our specimens have come back as delta,” said Muña.

Été Cafe is latest ProaPerks partner

Été Cafe is the latest company to sign on as a Northern Marianas College ProaPerks Partner, joining many other businesses and organizations that provide exclusive discounts and benefits for NMC students, employees, and alumni.

All card-carrying members of the NMC ProaPerks program can now receive a 10% discount (excluding cake orders) at Été Cafe.

The restaurant joins the growing list of ProaPerks partners, such as 153 Restaurant, 360 Restaurant, 4EVER CNMI, Alamo Car Rental, AllStar Sporting Goods, Aqua Connections, Inc., Athlete’s Foot, Avis Rent A Car, BAB Korean Restaurant Cup Bab, Chagi Norf Kitchen, Boarderline, Bolis R US 2, Candle J, Caravan of Food, Casa Decor, Casa Urashi-

ma, Chelu Alynez Enterprise, Chungi Wa Korean Restaurant, Clear Water Place, Clear Water Residence, Clear Water Villa, Coral Garden Hotel, Cosmos Lounge, D’ Chef’s Kitchen, Docomo Pacific, Dollar Days, Enterprise Car Rental, Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods, Fork and Spoon, Garapan Restaurant Cafe & Grill, Gold’s Gym, Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Great Harvest, Boyer Trading Company LLC. dba Ginen Saipan, Ha’ani Company, Healing Stones Spa, Highway Express Auto Care Center, Herman’s Modern Bakery, Inc./Tan Marikita’s Cafe, Hertz Rental Car, Hyatt, Ice Island Coffee & Ice Deserts, Hotel Americano, Ina’s Kitchen, Isla Shave Ice, International Roller Skates, Java Joe’s, JC Cafe, Jhen’s Sweet Corner Cakes, Judy’s Cafe &

Restaurant, Junlyn Salon, Kentucky Fried Chicken/Taco Bell, Kiki’s, Latte Build Gym, Lohas Massage, Lohas Nails, Lucky Store, Lucky II Mart, Magbers Snack Bar, Majesty Restaurant, Mama D’s Cafe, Mariana Lighthouse, Marianas Creation, MMC & Pacific Labs, LLC, Megabyte, Mermaid Restaurant & Milk tea, Micafe Snack Corner, Nam Dae Moon, National Car Rental, Natural Nail & Spa, Neni Girl Nails, NMC Bookstore, Ocean Candy, Ocean Star Restaurant, Pacific Home Appliances, Paradise Dental Spa, Pena House Boutique, Pizzeria Bar & Grill, Pokiyaki, Residence Lodge, Saipan Computer Services, Shirley’s Cafe, Salty’s, Stay Cafe, Stay Cafe, Summer Snow Cafe & Kids Corner cafe, Summit Auto Repair Shop, Surf Club, Residence Lodge, The



NMC

Été Cafe is now a proud NMC ProaPerks partner. More information about their special promotion for ProaPerks card holders can be found at marianas.edu/proaperks.


Ohala Foundation Clothing, The Pacific Supply, The Shack, Time Creation Corp., Tinian Diamond Hotel, Tom Yum Restaurant, Tribe Marianas, and Triple J Motors.

NMC is in the introductory phase of rolling out the Pro-


aPerks to alumni, students, and employees. For more information, visit marianas.edu/proaperks.

Companies and other interested organizations who would like to become part of the ProaPerks program and

take advantage of the buying power of thousands of individuals that include Northern Marianas College alumni, students, and employees, can find more information by emailing proaperks@marianas.edu. (NMC)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES
CUC-RAESP-22-002

A&E SURVEY SERVICES FOR THE DANDAN HOMESTEAD WATERLINE AND SERVICE LATERAL REPLACEMENT (W20-074)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for the Survey Services of the DanDan Homestead Waterline and Service Lateral Replacement in DanDan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this contract is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Proposers for this RAESP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government-observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one RAESP package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **January 19, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal and One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal in a separate envelope must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “**CUC-RAESP-22-002, A&E Survey Services for DanDan Homestead Waterline and Service Lateral Replacement**”, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 8, 2022. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.**

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.


All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAESP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 24, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater, Acting Chief Engineer – via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org; Mr. Kennet Jann R. Bernardo, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email kennet.bernardo@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie L. Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Technician Senior – via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org.


CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-22-005

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES FOR LOWER BASE SEWER REPLACEMENT – PHASE II

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting a fee proposal from a professional archaeologist who meets the U.S. Department of Interior qualifications (36CFR61) to create a work plan to prepare information, data and documentation needed to conduct archaeological monitoring during construction of all areas identified by the CNMI HPO for the construction of a new sewer line on Rte. 314 – Lower Base Drive and Rte. 30 – Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval of the USEPA.

The scope of Archaeological Services will include, but not be limited to:

1. Conduct background research to document the environmental and land-use histories of the project site.
2. Prepare a monitoring plan to the specifications of the Scope of Work and the guidelines for research designs.
3. Implement the monitoring plan activities following the approved plan.
4. Prepare an End of Fieldwork Letter that provides a general description of the project, work completed, burials recovered, sites and features identified.
5. Prepare a draft report summarizing the monitoring and data recovery activities & within six months of completing the fieldwork.
6. Prepare and submit, based on review comments, two final hard copies and one CD-ROM copy of the archaeological report to the HPO.
7. Prepare and submit revised CNMI Site Forms for previously recorded sites, as needed, and new site forms for all newly documented sites.
8. Submit all artifacts collected and pay all fees according to the Commonwealth Museum of History and Culture (CMHC) to the specifications of the current draft curation standards.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the PROPOSAL must be submitted in a SEALED ENVELOPE marked “**CUC-RFP-22-005: Archaeological Services for Lower Base Sewer Replacement – Phase II**” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **January 27, 2022, at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RFP requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RFP under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RFP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 12, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copies to Nicolette Villagomez, Water/Wastewater Engineer, via email address nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Senior Administrative Technician via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

NMHC launches rental housing development programs

As a result of the damage sustained in the 2018 storms—Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu, the CNMI received an allocation of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery funds, which is administered by the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. In order to address both the direct and indirect impacts of the two storms, the Commonwealth has developed the Rental Rehabilitation, Reconstruction, and New Construction Program to cover the eligible costs for repair or replacement of storm-related damage to individual site rental properties as well as to increase the stock of rental units with new construction or acquisition of individual units. Available rental units prior

to the disaster were quickly rented, thus creating an even bigger shortage of available and affordable, safe, decent rental units.

On May 28, 2021, and July 28, 2021, the NMHC board of directors adopted the Rental Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and New Construction Program Policies and Procedures under the CDBG-DR Affordable Rental Housing Development Program. The three CDBG-DR Affordable Rental Housing Development Programs being made available to the public include:

■ **1 to 4 Units Program:** This program will provide a combination of interest-free loan (75% of total cost) and forgivable loan (25% of total cost) to rental property own-

ers with one to four units. The forgivable loan portion is forgiven after completing the affordability period that is contingent on the type of construction project. The remaining interest-free loan balance for both rehabilitation/reconstruction and new construction/acquisition will also be forgiven but after completing 15 years of payments. Tenants must be Low-to-Moderate Income individuals/families.

■ **5 Plus Units (Non-LI-HTC) Program:** The program proposes to address the current housing rental shortage through the rehabilitation and development of affordable rental housing, including acquisition, demolition, rehabilitation and new construction, as it pertains to the development

of subsidized and affordable units for Low-to-Moderate Income individuals/families.

■ **GAP Filler to LIHTC Program:** The program objective is to leverage LIHTC (Low-Income Housing Tax Credits) to extend the impact of CDBG-DR funding with the aim of increasing the inventory stock of affordable multifamily rental units.

NMHC intends to optimize the use of CDBG-DR funds by providing gap funding and, if needed, interim and permanent loans, to leverage available LIHTCs to create/rehabilitate affordable rental housing. All developments funded through this program will benefit low-and moderate-income populations.

For more information,

visit cnmi-cdbgdr.com or contact the NMHC CDBG-DR Division at 233-9447/9448/9449/9450 or via email cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhc-gov.net. Applications may be picked up at the CDBG-DR office in San Jose, Saipan, the Tinian Field Office (NMC campus), and the Rota Field Office, Songsong, Rota from 8am to 4pm. **(PR)**

UOG to host four-part college affordability webinar

Current and future University of Guam students as well as their parents are invited to attend “A Triton’s Guide to College Affordability,” a free webinar series presented by the University of Guam’s new Triton Advising Center and the UOG Financial Aid Office. The four-part series will inform participants of the various resources that can make attending the University of Guam more affordable, including local and federal financial aid, scholarships, grants, and more.

The first webinar is scheduled for 5:30pm tomorrow, Jan. 12, and will introduce the

Triton Advising Center and other offices within the university that can assist students with finding ways to make college more affordable.

Participants may sign up for and attend any or all of the following sessions:

■ A Triton’s Guide to Financial Aid: 5:30pm on Wednesday, Jan. 12

■ A Triton’s Guide to the FAFSA: 5:30pm on Thursday, Jan. 13

■ A Triton’s Guide to Scholarships and the Self-Service Portal: 5:30pm on Friday, Jan. 14

■ A Triton’s Guide to Financial Literacy: Money Man-

agement for Adults: 5:30pm on Tuesday, Jan. 18

To register, visit the link: <https://bit.ly/tritonwebinar>.

The Triton Advising Center was developed by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education and aims to support University of Guam students by providing access to advisers and workshops focused on advisement in academics, financial solvency and resources, and career development.

For more information, contact the Triton Advising Center at (671) 735-2290 or emstac@triton.uog.edu or follow the center on Instagram @uogtac. **(PR)**



CHIGET BEACH REOPENED

Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan enjoys the view of Chiget Beach with Joint Region Marianas commander Rear Adm. Benjamin Nicholson following a ribbon cutting ceremony on Tinian last Dec. 22. U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, Joint Region Marianas, and CNMI leadership commemorated the re-opening of Chiget Beach for public use.

U.S. NAVY/SHAINA O'NEAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Free webinar on federal contracting

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free live webinars on federal contracting this month. Webinars run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

■ **Jan. 13, 2022 - Buy American Act-The Buy American Act** was put in place to protect American manufacturing. However, the rules are complicated and can be frustrating for government contractors. The Guam PTAC will discuss the BAA and offer some guidance on how to stay in compliance.

■ **Jan. 20, 2022 - SBIR/STTR Programs-**

Calling all inventors and innovators. The Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs encourage small businesses to engage in Federal Research and Development that has the potential for commercialization. We will explain the programs and show how you can get involved.

To register visit: www.guamptac.com. **(PR)**

SINMI meeting on Thursday

The Soroptimist International Chapter of the Northern Mariana Islands will hold its monthly luncheon meeting this Thursday, Jan. 13, at 12pm at the 360 Restaurant. The club is accepting new members! Come and meet us and see what we are all about! **(PR)**



NORTHERN MARIANAS TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

P.O. Box 504880 Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No.: (670) 323.6601
Procurement Office

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP-NMTI/2022-001

Northern Marianas Technical Institute Workforce Career Training Facility

The Commonwealth of the Northern Marian Islands (CNMI) is soliciting proposals from qualified consulting firms to provide professional services for the design and construction management (CM) for the Northern Marianas Technical Institute Workforce Career Training Facility (NMTI) on the island of Saipan. The Facility will be located in Koblerville, Saipan as indicated on the attached Site Plan (Attachment A). This project is being funded by a grant from the US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration.

This solicitation is in accordance with CNMI Procurement Regulations NMIAC § 70-30.3-305. To also include provisions of CNMI Procurement Regulations, NMIAC Section §70-30.3-725 prohibiting kickbacks and gratuities, NMIAC Section §70-30.3-730 prohibition against contingent fees shall apply.

All firms submitting their RFPs may be considered as a Registered A&E firm with the CNMI pursuant to NMIAC § 70-30.3-250.

All firms must have or obtain a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Board of Professional Licensing. Information in obtaining a COA may be requested from the CNMI Board of Professional Licensing.

A pre-proposal meeting will be held on December 28, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom Video Communication. Interested firms will be provided the video teleconference link. Firms are requested to submit a notice of their intent to participate in the pre-proposal meeting one (1) day before the meeting via email at: admin@nmtechnmi.org. Attendance is not mandatory, but is recommended.

Inquiries regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing on or before December 21, 2021, no later than 9:00 a.m. via email to Ms. Jodina Attao, CEO at: admin@nmtechnmi.org.

Sealed proposals for this project shall be submitted with one (1) original and four (4) copies to the NMTI Procurement Officer located at the NMTI campus, Lowerbase, Saipan, MP-96950 no later than **4:00pm, local time, Chamorro Standard Time, 01/18/2022 and must be marked "Proposal - Northern Marianas Technical Institute Workforce Career Training Facility NMTI-2022/RFP-001."** Questions regarding this solicitation should be directed to Ms. Jodina Attao, by email only at admin@nmtechnmi.org. Electronic submissions may be accepted if approved prior to the submission deadline.

Proposals located outside of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to propose. Notice of Intent to Propose must be received by the **NMTI Procurement Office no later than 4:00pm local time, 01/25/2022, via email to amy.babauta@nmtechnmi.org.**

For proposers located outside of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an original and three (3) copies of sealed proposal must be postmarked by the US Postal Services of the official government postal service of foreign country **no later than 01/25/2022**, and mailed to NMTI Procurement Officer at PO Box 504880 Saipan, MP 96950 and the proposal must be received no later than 02/04/2022. Electronic submissions may be accepted if approved prior to the submission deadline.

The Project Description and Scope of Work is available beginning December 14, 2021 at the NMTI Procurement Office, located at the NMTI Main Office, Lower Base. Request may be sent via email to Ms. Amy Lynn Babauta at amy.babauta@nmtechnmi.org.

/s/ Jodina C. Attao
CEO

/s/ Amy Lynn Babauta
Procurement Officer

Joey P. San Nicolas
Attorney-at-Law
San Nicolas Law Office, LLC
2nd Floor, Island Commercial Center, Rm. 203
Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai
P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7659 | Fax: (670) 234-9218
Email: jpsn@sannicolaw.net

Attorney for Petitioner Diego Joaquin B. Camacho

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE)
MATTER OF) Civil Action
THE ESTATE OF:) No.: 19-0277
DIEGO DLG.)
CAMACHO,) NOTICE OF
Decedent.) HEARING

TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES AND CREDITORS OF: DIEGO JOAQUIN DELEON GUERRERO CAMACHO, DECEASED.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Petition for Decree of Final Distribution by Administrator Diego Joaquin Babauta Camacho in this estate will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the 20th day of January, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., at Room 220A at the NMI Superior Court, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

ORDERED this 27th day of December, 2021.

Hon. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO
Associate Judge

Joey P. San Nicolas
Attorney-at-Law
San Nicolas Law Office, LLC
2nd Floor, Island Commercial Center, Rm. 203
Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai
P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7659 | Fax: (670) 234-9218
Email: jpsn@sannicolaw.net

Attorney for Administratrix Tina Marie Leon Guerrero-Camacho

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE)
MATTER OF) Civil Action
THE ESTATE OF:) No.: 21-0286-CV
VERTILIA ELENA)
CAMACHO LEON) NOTICE OF
GUERRERO,) HEARING
Decedent.)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a motion to approve lease and option agreements will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the 20th day of January, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., at Room 220A, Superior Court of the Northern Mariana Islands, Susupe Village, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

Dated this 5th day of January, 2022.

Hon. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO
Associate Judge

Joey P. San Nicolas
Attorney-at-Law
San Nicolas Law Office, LLC
2nd Floor, Island Commercial Center, Rm. 203
Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai
P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7659 | Fax: (670) 234-9218
Email: jpsn@sannicolaw.net

Attorney for Administratrix Pamela Camacho Sablan

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE)
MATTER OF) Civil Action
THE ESTATE OF:) No.: 21-0288-CV
ELPHIDIA C)
AMACHO) NOTICE OF
SABLAN,) HEARING
Decedent.)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Motion to Approve Lease and Option Agreements will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the 20th day of January, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., at Room 220A, Superior Court of the Northern Mariana Islands, Susupe Village, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

Dated this 5th day of January, 2022.

Hon. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO
Associate Judge

Sablan will soon announce her running mate

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Christina E. Sablan, the NMI Democratic Party's candidate for governor this November, said Thursday that she will soon "share the excitement" in announcing her running mate.

In response to *Saipan Tri-*

bune's inquiry as to who is the Democratic Party's candidate for lieutenant governor, Sablan said she is very aware and appreciative that people are excited to know who her running mate will be.

"We will be making that an-



Sablan

nouncement in due course and soon," she said.

On the issue of impeaching Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Sablan said they are very close to the end—at least on the House of Representatives' side. She said they will be vot-

ing tomorrow, Wednesday, on a House resolution to impeach Torres.

The lawmaker was a member of the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee that looked into Torres' expenditures of public funds over the past seven months "and really over the past two years."

"I believe we in the Legislature have a responsibility and a public mandate to faithfully carry out this work to completion and I am committed to doing my part in this process," Sablan said.

Sablan is also a member of the House Special Committee on Impeachment, and a co-sponsor of House Resolution 22-14 that charges Torres with committing felony, corruption, and neglect of duty.

JGO chair Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) introduced the resolution.

Insisting that he has done nothing wrong and illegal, Torres said Thursday that the false allegations brought by the JGO Committee against him and his family are nothing more than a politically charged group of Democrats conspiring to sensationalize misleading information so that they may divide the community and seize power for themselves.

Torres is seeking re-election as governor, with Sen. Vinnie Vinson F. Sablan as his running mate, under the NMI Republican Party.

The House Special Investigating Committee chaired by House vice speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan) unanimously voted last Tuesday to send the im-

peachment resolution to the full House for action. Attao is supporting the candidacy of Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios

and Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang as governor and lieutenant governor, respectively, as independents.

'2022 military exercises participants to adhere to COVID-19 protocols'

ASAN, Guam—Several major military training exercises are planned for this year in Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the region from January through June, and the U.S. military assures that all exercise participants will carefully adhere to COVID-19 mitigation measures to protect the civilian and military communities.

"The safety and health of our military and civilian communities is a top priority while we conduct essential military exercises and training in Guam, the CNMI and the region," said Rear Adm. Benjamin Nicholson, commander of Joint Region Marianas.

These exercises include Sea Dragon, Cope North, Cobra Gold, Carrier Air Wing Strike

Fighter Advanced Readiness Program, Naval Surface Warfare Advanced Tactical Training, and Valiant Shield. During this time,

Exercise Sea Dragon 22, an annual multinational exercise, is the first among the series of planned military exercises to kick off here in Guam, and will feature military elements of the Royal Australian Air Force, Royal Canadian

Air Force, Indian Navy, Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force, Republic of Korea Navy, and the U.S. Navy. Sea Dragon is a U.S.-led, multilateral training exercise designed to practice and discuss anti-submarine Warfare tactics to operate together in response to traditional and non-traditional maritime security challenges in the Indo-Pacific region. (PR)



SULC IN ACTION

As part of its continued commitment in beautification of the community, the Saipan Unity Lions Club repainted the pavilion located at Tanapag Beach Park. In addition, SULC also repainted two of its adopted bus stops in Tanapag. "We would like to thank our generous donor for providing us with paint materials and our dedicated members in making this project a success," the group said in a statement emailed to the media.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Rosa Mercedes)
Rickrik Taman)
(Name of Mother))
K.H.R.T.)
P.E.J.R.T.) FCD PA
(Name of Children)) CIVIL ACTION
Minor Children) NO. 21-0474
Plaintiffs,)
-vs.-) SUMMONS FOR
Peter Atalg Castro) PUBLICATION
Name of Alleged Father)
Defendant,)

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:
Peter Atalg Castro

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, with thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 501634 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 9th day of November, 2021.

/s/ Clerk of Court

Aran Evan R. Evangelista
and Courtney Mae P. Evangelista
Phone: (010) 2229-8197 /
(010) 2229-8238 (South Korea)

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

E. J. C. P.)
Minor Child) FCD-GU CIVIL
By:) ACTION NO.
Aran Evan R.) 21-0521-FCD
Evangelista)
Courtney Mae P.) NOTICE OF
Evangelista) HEARING
Petitioner)

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on January 21, 2022 at 9:00a.m. at Tinian Courthouse before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 21st day of December, 2021.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold a **Special Board meeting** on Thursday, **January 13, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.** The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building. The following agenda will be considered and public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA

- I. Preliminary Matters
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Reading of the Notice of the Agenda
 - D. Adoption of Agenda
- II. Public Comments*
- III. Discussion
 - A. CHCC's Current Billing and Arrears
 - B. Review of CHCC's Draft Proposal on Reconciliation of Arrears.
- IV. Executive Session**
- V. Announcements
- VI. Adjournment

/s/

MIRANDA V. MANGLONA, Chairwoman

* In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by a recorded vote of the majority members of the governing body.
** All interested persons are welcome to attend, and submit written and oral testimony on the above-agenda items. Public Comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes.
*** Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, the CUC Board of Directors may vote to meet at any time in executive session, in consultation with the Legal Counsel on matters deemed privileged and confidential.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
ITB22-CHCC/PH-NCDB-009

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 4, 2021 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"LEASE OF VEHICLE"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION TO BID
ITB22-GOV-42200018

SUBMISSION DATE: **9:30 AM February 10, 2022**

KALABERA CAVE REPAIRS & IMPROVEMENTS

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) are soliciting sealed bids for the *Kalabera Cave Repairs & Improvements* in Marpi, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). This project will be funded by the 702 Covenant funding under the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

The project package will be available in digital format only on **January 13, 2021** at the Capital Improvement Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, during regular working hours. **This project will require US Treasury Listed Payment and Performance Bonds.**

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the project site, Marpi, Saipan, CNMI at **10:00 AM ChST January 26, 2022**. Proposers may request to participate via phone call or virtually five (5) days prior to the meeting scheduled. All attendees are required to use a face mask and exercise social distancing throughout the duration of the meeting.

Questions regarding this ITB may be submitted via email to Ms. Nerissa Benavente at nerissa.benavente@gov.mp no later than **4:30 PM ChST February 1, 2022**. All Questions & Answers will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Bidders located outside of the CNMI must fill out and submit the Notice of Intent to Bid Form to the Director of Procurement Services no later than **9:30 AM February 10, 2022**.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor, CNMI

/S/ Francisco C. Aguon, Acting Director
CNMI Procurement Services

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

Biden's speech makes clear who's at fault for insurrection

President Joe Biden on Thursday gave probably the most forceful and assertive speech of his long political life. Gone was the pleading, folksy, queasy tone that usually permeates his public remarks. Instead, he went hard on the attack against Donald Trump, the person who most deserved to be called out for inciting the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection. This is the Joe Biden Americans voted for. If Biden can maintain this level of energy, passion and focus in his public remarks, he may well salvage his presidency and stop seeding the turf for yet another Trump presidential bid.

Biden laid out in explicit terms exactly why Trump bears full responsibility for the Capitol siege—and he was insistent in not mincing words, calling it what it was: an “insurrection.” Biden also raised the starkest of warnings, saying that there’s “a dagger at the throat of America” and adding: “We are in a battle for the soul of America.”

This was not hyperbole. The ongoing efforts by Trump and GOP congressional leaders to avoid talking about the insurrection while presenting tortured rationalizations for Trump’s support of it demand daily reminders that, no, all is not well. This nation’s democracy hangs by a thread because the GOP leadership refuses to prioritize defense of that democracy over their selfish partisan interests.

Biden made clear why such a distinction is necessary. The insurrectionists Trump directed to the Capitol “weren’t looking to uphold the will of the people. They were looking to deny the will of the people. ... They weren’t looking to uphold a free and fair election. They were looking to overturn one. They weren’t looking to save the cause of America. They were looking to subvert the Constitution.”

There’s not a single word of that statement that Republican leaders can fault, because it’s the truth. So they responded by accusing Biden and the Democrats of turning the attack into a partisan issue. That’s rich.

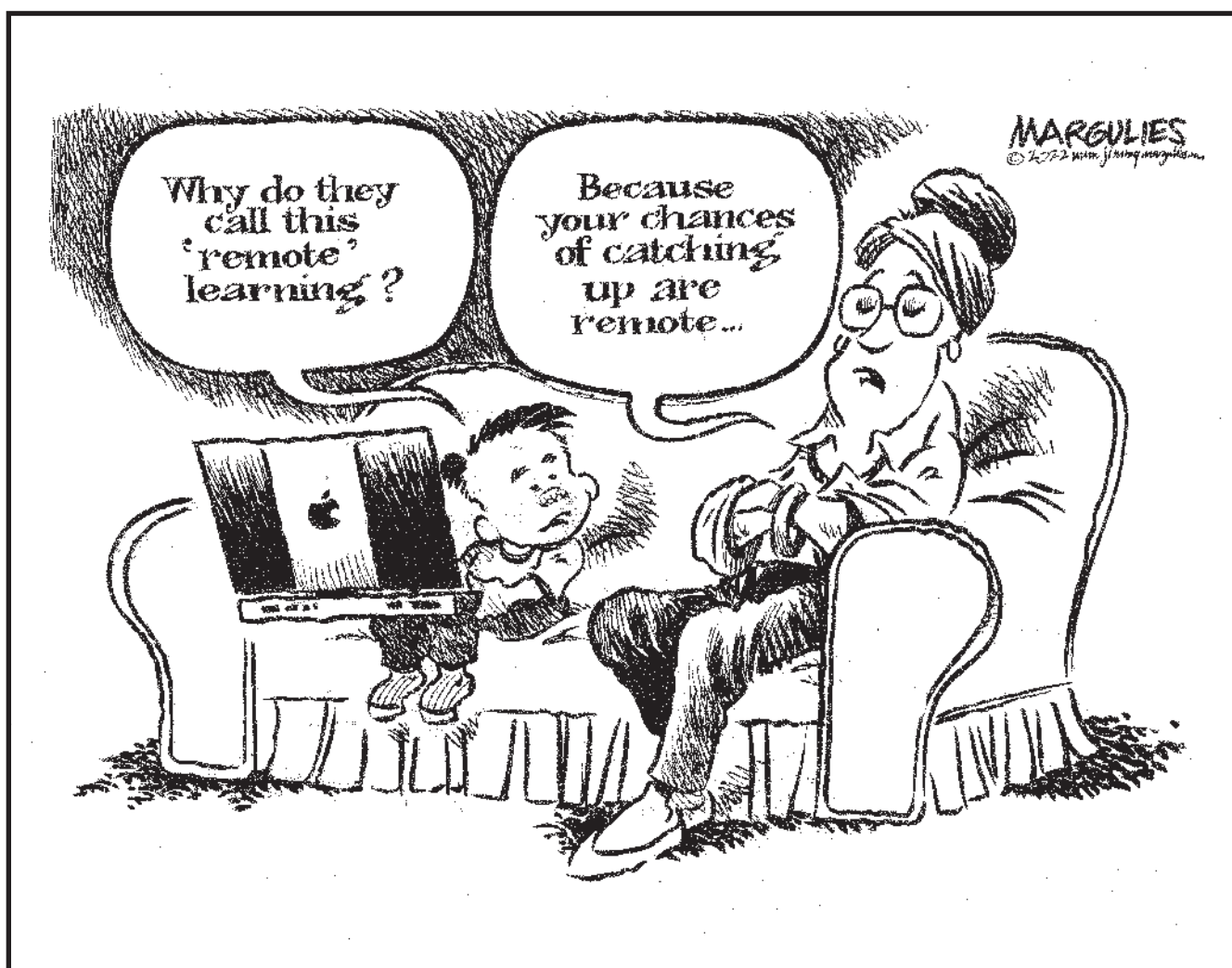
Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, who on Jan. 6 labeled the attackers as “criminals” and laid total responsibility for the attack at Trump’s feet, blamed Democrats on Thursday for making such a big deal about it.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, who denounced Trump on Jan. 6 and declared that he’d had “enough” of the president’s antics, now kneels again in total subservience at the Trump altar. He lashed out Thursday against Biden for what he called his “brazen politicization of January 6.”

Equally disheartening is the cowardly silence from Republicans like Missouri Sen. Roy Blunt and Rep. Ann Wagner of Ballwin, and the tacit defense of Trump’s coup attempt by Sen. Josh Hawley and Illinois Rep. Rodney Davis of Taylorville.

There is no gray area when it comes to Jan. 6. There’s right and there’s wrong. Any politician who fails to take an aggressive stand in defense of American democracy during this moment of peril has no business continuing in elective office.

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Extra benefits for anti-vax jobless? Really?

By **MICHAEL R. STRAIN**
Bloomberg Opinion

Michael R. Strain is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is director of economic policy studies and Arthur F. Burns Scholar in Political Economy at the American Enterprise Institute. He is the author of *The American Dream Is Not Dead: (But Populism Could Kill It)*.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic started in 2020 and the federal government began using extraordinary measures to support workers, households and businesses, Republicans have been concerned that expanding the eligibility and generosity of unemployment benefits could slow the recovery and keep workers on the sidelines.

So why have a handful of Republican-led states now extended unemployment benefits to workers who have lost their jobs because of failing to comply with vaccine mandates, with other states considering following suit?

The answer is that some Republican politicians place fighting the culture war ahead of sound economic policy, traditional conservative principles and the best interests of their own constituents. The result will be to keep more workers on the sidelines in Arkansas, Florida, Iowa, Kansas and Tennessee at a time when labor shortages are hurting the ability of many businesses to function and are contributing to record-setting inflation — all while lengthening the duration of the pandemic.

State officials cited precisely these concerns when they stopped participating in a federal program that made unemployment benefits more generous.

It seems they may have been right — states that reduced the generosity of unemployment benefits last summer saw relatively more unemployed workers find jobs. But these states were expanding unemployment compensation with one hand while restricting it with the other, creating a new category of eligibility restricted to the unvaccinated while cutting the size of the payments and telling gig workers that they are no longer allowed to receive benefits.

Jobless benefits are a social insurance program. Employers pay into the system on behalf of workers, who ultimately bear the cost of those premiums in the form of lower wages. Workers who have lost a job through no fault of their own — for example, a mass layoff due to an economic downturn — and who are actively looking for work are eligible to collect benefits. Workers who are fired for cause or who voluntarily quit can’t receive benefits, just as someone who intentionally burns down his house can’t collect on his homeowner’s insurance policy.

Workers who don’t comply with their employer’s vaccine policy are being fired for cause. Should workers fired for not complying with corporate dress codes be granted eligibility for unemployment compensation? No. Nor should workers who choose not to follow corporate vaccine policy.

The economic nationalism and conservative populism that are coursing through the political right indulge a narrative of grievance and victimization. But these laid-off workers are not vic-

tims. They are adults making choices about their work environment, and they should bear the responsibility for those choices, including loss of income while searching for another job.

Conservatism prizes economic liberty and argues that employers should be given broad latitude to set corporate policy, and that the terms of employment relationships should be respected. These relationships are entered into by workers and firms voluntarily, and presumably would not exist if the arrangement didn’t make both parties better off.

This has been a traditional argument against high federal minimum wages. If I am willing to be compensated at \$12 per hour and a business is willing to pay me that wage, then why should the government step in and judge that \$12 is too little?

The same logic applies to vaccine mandates. It should be fine for employers to require their employees to be vaccinated, and fine for people to choose whether to work for employers with vaccine mandates. There is no good reason that workers who would rather not be vaccinated should receive compensation for choosing to act upon that preference. Conservatives should remember that that compensation comes from tax revenue — i.e., it is other people’s money.

Further complicating this situation are consumer prices, which are rising at a pace faster than they have in four decades. These Republican-led states are keeping more workers on the sidelines, which is making it harder for businesses to find workers, pushing up nominal wages and putting upward pressure on consumer prices. Fighting vaccine mandates should take a back seat to getting workers into jobs and keeping price increases in check.

The many reasons to oppose extending unemployment benefits to people who have lost their jobs over vaccine mandates include a faster end to the pandemic, increasing employment, prizing the value of personal responsibility and advancing economic liberty, fiscal responsibility and limited government.

The reasons to support this policy? None that are compelling.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

How do we mark an attack on our country when it's from within?

How does a nation commemorate an anniversary like this one? How will America, which has yet to fully process or understand what happened last Jan. 6 at the U.S. Capitol, push back against future insurrections of its kind?

The nation was attacked on that date. The rules of law and diplomacy, the officers in charge of protecting them and America's tradition of peaceful transitions of power were fought with violence generated by lies.

The country was also attacked on Sept. 11, 2001, but marking those anniversaries has been easier. There are dignified events designed to soothe and unify: Two bright columns of light shoot up from where New York's twin towers once stood. The names of the 3,000 or so who died after hijacked planes plowed into them, the Pentagon and a Pennsylvania field are read aloud in a moving and solemn tribute.

But how do you send a message of unity about last Jan. 6, when it was fellow Americans who carried out the rampage, destruction and death threats while chanting "USA! USA!" and calling themselves patriots? How, especially, when they were insisting without basis that an outgoing president was defeated only by fraud?

The attacks of Sept. 11 busted open our sense of invulnerability because, until then, foreign wars and terrorist attacks weren't waged on U.S. soil. We sent our troops into battle thousands of miles away. And while a single disaffected American, Timothy McVeigh, could and did do fearsome damage with a homemade bomb in Oklahoma City, we could count on professional nonpartisan security forces to beat back domestic terror threats.

On the night of Sept. 11, 2001, President George W. Bush found the right words and a resolute tone to pull a shaken nation together. "Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings," he said, "but they cannot touch the foundation of America. These acts shatter steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve."

Later would come the ill-advised decision to invade Iraq amid falsified claims of stockpiled weapons of mass destruction. There would be bans on Muslims amid a rush to scapegoat the religion itself. But early on, it seemed we were all in

this together, as victims.

Not so after Jan. 6. The loss of life was much smaller, but in deeper ways, it was a graver event because it was perpetrated by hundreds of our own and then praised by a sitting president. That was after Donald Trump had told them that, if they didn't fight, they'd have no country left.

Trump's culpability for this is still under investigation. But just as crucial a question is why sitting members of his Republican Party—147 members of Congress—voted not to certify Joe Biden's presidential election win. And why so many Trump supporters believed his baseless claims and were ready to act on them. Perhaps because they liked his agenda. The congressional committee investigating Jan. 6 is looking at the role of right-wing extremist movements and groups trying to undermine democracy and equality, using force.

"The sentiments espoused by domestic extremist causes are as public and insidious as ever, making their way into mainstream conservative discourse," writes Jared Holt in *The Atlantic*.

Indeed. A November Iowa Poll found Trump leading President Joe Biden by 11 points (51% to 40%) in a hypothetical 2024 rematch in the state, where he gets 60% support. So we could guess that same proportion of Iowans approved of Trump's incitement to supporters, or at least his propensity to shift blame for their woes elsewhere and to scapegoat such groups as abortion rights advocates, the poor, people of color, immigrants. It also doesn't seem to bother his supporters that Trump's behavior has echoes of autocratic strongmen in totalitarian states.

Nothing particularly distinguished the Iowans who followed his call to D.C. that day. They were parents, spouses, employees; working class, middle class, some politically unaffiliated. Doug Jensen, a 42-year-old Des Moines construction worker, is described as a loving family man. He could be seen in video scaling an outside wall of the Capitol and later leading a crowd pursuing a U.S. Capitol Police officer up the stairs. A self-described "true believer" of the QAnon conspiracy theory, Jensen, who is charged with seven offenses, "illustrates the difficulty in piecing together the psychology of the Jan. 6 participants," Des Moines Register reporters

By **REKHA BASU**

Des Moines Register

Rekha Basu is a columnist for the Des Moines Register. Readers may send her email at rbasu@dmreg.com.



wrote. QAnon, which calls Democrats "enemies," spews a complex narrative in which Trump was secretly working in a multi-layered web to detain and punish people trafficking children for sex.

"Maybe it was mid-life crisis, the pandemic, or perhaps the message just seemed to elevate him from his ordinary life to an exalted status with an honorable goal," Jensen's lawyer wrote.

Also there was Leo Kelly, a 36-year-old technology executive from Cedar Rapids and devout abortion opponent and Christian follower of the website LifeSiteNews. Daryl Johnson, 51, of St. Ansgar was with his son Daniel, of Minnesota. On Facebook, Daryl contended that any damage from the riot was caused by "antifa" and that police were responsible for breaking the peace.

Whatever the source of this deep paranoia, distrust in government and willingness to resort to lawlessness, it makes up a perfect storm when paired with the popularity of social media conspiracy sites, and the willingness of a sitting president to lie. Holt suggests national right-wing activists are now focusing locally to engage in a "conservative culture war." And if some recent school board elections around Iowa are any example, it's happening here. Holt says conspiracy theories may be getting even more popular than last year.

So, however the day is observed, we at the local level should work to disabuse any neighbors or acquaintances of any notion they're heroes for what they did. Let them know that the rule of law, the Constitution and the fight for equality and justice will continue with or without them and that they're on the wrong side of history.

To stop another Jan. 6, we have to disagree

During his 40-year career in the military, my father served under seven presidential administrations through countless policy decisions, three wars, innumerable budget votes and huge changes at every level of society. He says that what makes this country special is the fact that he swore an oath to serve not a person, a party or even the state, but to the Constitution of the United States—an oath to uphold the rights and institutions of democracy.

A strong democracy, though, needs more than free elections and enshrined civil rights. As the great American thinker John Dewey argued, democracy is not merely a political institution. It is a way of life. It's a way of living with one another, being able to agree and disagree, embracing our different perspectives and individual histories.

"Unless democratic habits of thought and action are part of the fiber of a people," he wrote, "political democracy is insecure. It can not stand in isolation. It must be buttressed by the presence of democratic methods in all social relationships."

The violent insurrection that took place on Jan. 6, 2021, was not just an attempt to halt the peaceful transfer of power. It represented a collective failure in the practice of our democracy, a warning that we have failed to keep alive those fundamental democratic methods in our social relationships.

And we know that Jan. 6 was not an isolated incident. Over a third of young people in America believe they'll witness civil conflict in their lifetimes. That is astonishingly tragic. We need to make sure it is not a prediction. It shouldn't be controversial to say we should work like hell to turn back the tide, repair our social fabric, heal our communities and snuff out the threat of political violence on a larger scale.

At Essential Partners, we equip communities, schools, congregations and institutions to build a more perfect union, one founded on trust and belonging. We envision an Ameri-

ca where we can belong no matter our identities or beliefs, where we can be heard even if we're in the minority, where we can vigorously disagree without violence.

If you want to be a part of real and lasting change for our country, we need to invest in the health of the communities where we live and work. We need to heal the broken relationships and mend the frayed trust. Here are three things you can do right away:

Talk to the people you love about the issues that matter most with honesty, curiosity and compassion. Politics, religion and social issues can no longer be off limits. Extremism takes root in isolation and loneliness. Work within your trusted communities to make space for difficult conversations. Practice disagreeing with people you love and care for. Practice holding onto those relationships even when you differ. If you need support and tools, browse our resources, join us for a workshop or schedule a free consultation.

Foster a culture around you of collective discernment and collaborative decision-making. In your workplaces, schools, congregations and institutions, invite people to think about what they need to be a lone voice, to share a minority view, to offer a perspective that may be hard for others to hear. Find out what people need to be resilient together, to care for themselves, and to disagree in ways that do not diminish a people's experiences and identities. Our lives are intertwined. We share responsibility for the health of the whole community.

Search for seeds of hope in your community. You cannot do the hard work of hope when your heart is depleted. Hope is vital. You can find it when neighbors of different faiths share food on a holiday. It's there when people on opposite sides of the political divide enjoy a high school basketball game together. And when you lose hope, let someone else come forward, someone who can carry on while you replen-

By **KATIE HYTEN**

The Fulcrum

Katie Hyten is co-executive director of Essential Partners.



ish yourself.

You are not alone in this work. There are thousands of people around the country who are changing the way we talk about politics, shared values and identities. I am convinced that the bonds we forge in compassion will be stronger than the forces tearing this country apart.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR






No joy at the post office

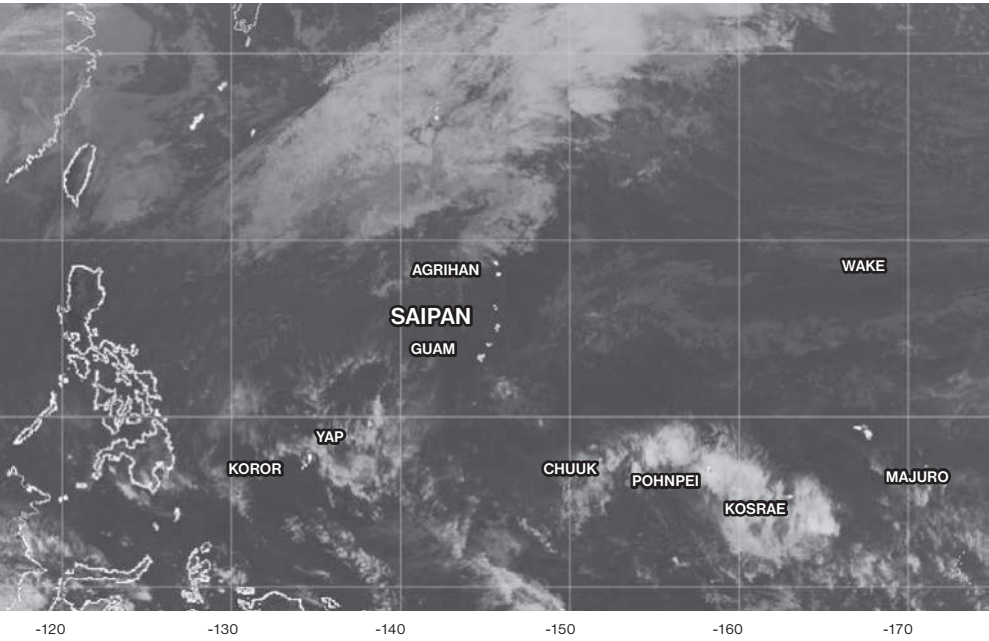
Postmaster General Louis DeJoy has not done the job. This Trump flunky is a holdover from the previous administration and complaints of late delivery to folks who depend on checks are getting louder. President Biden has enough on his plate dealing with COVID-19, foreign and domestic issues, etc. It's plain to see Postmaster General DeJoy has taken the de joy out of American citizens sending and receiving mail. President Biden should terminate DeJoy post haste. It would have my (and many Americans) stamp of approval!

Herb Stark

Mooreville, NC

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
									
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.	
75°	85°	76°	85°	85°	75°	85°	75°	75°	85°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:03 AM, MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Moderate to fresh easterlies prevail in the Marianas, bringing partly cloudy skies and drier conditions as the region sits in a surface diffluence zone today. Ipan Buoy indicates seas at around 6 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

onds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Isolated Thunderstorms	84 / 76 °F	
Palau	AM Thunderstorms	83 / 77 °F	
Yap	Scattered Thunderstorms	84 / 78 °F	
Chuuk	AM Thunderstorms	84 / 80 °F	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	87 / 78 °F	
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	86 / 80 °F	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85 / 80 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	06:45 AM	18:03 PM
Wednesday	06:46 AM	18:04 PM
Thursday	06:46 AM	18:04 PM
Friday	06:46 AM	18:05 PM
Saturday	06:46 AM	18:05 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	01:01 PM	13:00 PM
Wednesday	-	01:50 PM	13:37 PM
Thursday	-	02:39 PM	14:17 PM
Friday	-	03:29 AM	15:00 PM
Saturday	-	04:21 PM	15:46 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 12, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	7:20am	8:05am	2, 4, 6	UA116	5:30am	6:16am	2, 4, 6
UA117	9:50am	10:35am	1, 3, 5, 7	UA174	8:00am	8:46am	1, 3, 5, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	Daily	UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	2, 5
				UA184	10:55pm	4:45am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	7:20am	9:50pm	2, 4, 6 via Guam	UA184/174	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via Guam	UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
				UA184/174	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
				UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 6, 7 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	6	7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
TW9308	3:20PM	8:00PM	4, 5	OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	6
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	6	TW9307	10:00AM	2:20PM	4, 5

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri Daily	1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM		1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily	1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri Daily	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM		2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO GUAM				2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

Stay home or work sick? Omicron poses a conundrum

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO & DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP BUSINESS WRITERS

As the raging omicron variant of COVID-19 infects workers across the nation, millions of those whose jobs don't provide paid sick days are having to choose between their health and their paycheck.

While many companies instituted more robust sick leave policies at the beginning of the pandemic, some of those have since been scaled back with the rollout of the vaccines, even though omicron has managed to evade the shots. Meanwhile, the current labor shortage is adding to the pressure of workers having to decide whether to show up to their job sick if they can't afford to stay home.

"It's a vicious cycle," said Daniel Schneider, professor of public policy at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. "As staffing gets depleted because people are out sick, that means that those that are on the job have more to do and are even more reluctant to call in sick when they in turn get sick."

Low-income hourly workers are especially vulnerable. Nearly 80% of all private sector workers get at least one paid sick day, according



A medical technician performs a nasal swab test on a motorist queued up in a line at a COVID-19 testing site near All City Stadium Dec. 30, 2021, in southeast Denver.

to a national compensation survey of employee benefits conducted in March by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. But only 33% of workers whose wages are at the bottom 10% get paid sick leave, compared with 95% in the top 10%.

A survey this past fall of

roughly 6,600 hourly low-wage workers conducted by Harvard's Shift Project, which focuses on inequality, found that 65% of those workers who reported being sick in the last month said they went to work anyway. That's lower than the 85% who showed up to work sick before the pandemic, but much higher than it should be in the middle of a public health crisis. Schneider says it could get

worse because of omicron and the labor shortage.

What's more, Schneider noted that the share of workers with paid sick leave before the pandemic barely budged during the pandemic—50% versus 51% respectively. He further noted many of the working poor surveyed don't even have \$400 in emergency funds, and families will now be even more financially strapped with the

expiration of the child tax credit, which had put a few hundred dollars in families' pockets every month.

The Associated Press interviewed one worker who started a new job with the state of New Mexico last month and started experiencing COVID-like symptoms earlier in the week. The worker, who asked not to be named because it might jeopardize their employment, took a day off to get

tested and two more days to wait for the results.

A supervisor called and told the worker they would qualify for paid sick days only if the COVID test turns out to be positive. If the test is negative, the worker will have to take the days without pay, since they haven't accrued enough time for sick leave.

"I thought I was doing the right thing by protecting my co-workers," said the worker, who is still awaiting the results and estimates it will cost \$160 per day of work missed if they test negative. "Now I wish I just would've gone to work and not said anything."

A Trader Joe's worker in California, who also asked not to be named because they didn't want to risk their job, said the company lets workers accrue paid time off that they can use for vacations or sick days. But once that time is used up, employees often feel like they can't afford to take unpaid days.

"I think many people now come to work sick or with what they call 'allergies' because they feel they have no other choice," the worker said.

Trader Joe's offered hazard pay until last spring, and even paid time off if workers had COVID-related symptoms. But the worker said those benefits have ended. The company also no longer requires customers to wear masks in all of its stores.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Chicago fight with teachers union stretches into 2nd week

CHICAGO (AP)—Chicago school leaders canceled class a fourth day in the nation's third-largest district as negotiations with the teachers' union over remote learning and other COVID-19 safety protocols failed to produce an agreement over the weekend. Mayor Lori Lightfoot and Chicago Public Schools CEO Pedro Martinez said in a joint statement Sunday evening that there wasn't "sufficient progress" in talks to resume in-person classes Monday, extending disruptions into a second school week. But they vowed negotiations would continue "through the night." Disputed issues included testing and metrics to close schools. The Chicago Teachers Union wants the option to revert to districtwide remote instruction, and most members have refused to teach in-person until there's an agreement, or the latest COVID-19 spike subsides. But Chicago leaders reject districtwide remote learning, saying it's detrimental to students and schools are

safe. Instead, Chicago opted to cancel classes as a whole two days after students returned from winter break.

Thousands rally in Prague against vaccination mandate

Thousands of people marched through the Czech Republic's capital on Sunday to protest against compulsory COVID-19 vaccination for certain groups and professions. The protesters gathered at Wenceslas Square in central Prague to question the effectiveness of the current vaccines and reject the vaccination of children before marching through the capital, chanting "Freedom, freedom." Prague's protest followed similar but smaller demonstrations in several Czech cities on Saturday. The previous government released an order in early December, making vaccination mandatory for the 60 and over age group, as well as medical personnel, police officers, firefighters and medical students. The order is due to take effect in March, but it still might end up being overturned. (AP)

Inflation up, virus down as priorities in US: AP-NORC poll

WASHINGTON (AP)—Heading into a critical midterm election year, the top political concerns of Americans are shifting in ways that suggest Democrats face considerable challenges to maintaining their control of Congress.

A poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds that management of the pandemic, once an issue that strongly favored President Joe Biden and his fellow Democrats, is beginning to recede in the minds of Americans. COVID-19 is increasingly overshadowed by concerns about the economy and personal finances—particularly inflation—which are topics that could lift Republicans.

Just 37% of Americans name the virus as one of their top five priorities for the government to work on in 2022, compared with 53% who said it was a leading priority at the same time a year ago. The economy outpaced the pandemic in the open-ended ques-

tion, with 68% of respondents mentioning it in some way as a top 2022 concern. A similar percentage said the same last year, but mentions of inflation are much higher now: 14% this year, compared with less than 1% last year.

Consumer prices jumped 6.8% for the 12 months ending in November, a nearly four-decade high. Meanwhile, roughly twice as many Americans now mention their household finances, namely, the cost of living, as a governmental priority, 24% vs. 12% last year.

The poll was conducted in early December, when worries about the virus were rising as omicron took hold in the country, but before it sparked record caseloads, overwhelmed testing sites and hospitals and upended holiday travel. Still, in recent follow-up interviews with participants, including self-identified Democrats, many said those developments didn't shake their views.

"If we say anything along the lines of, 'Let's wait until the pandemic dies down,' well, this son of a gun virus has unlimited ability to mutate," said Mary Small, a 65-year-old pharmaceutical research contractor in Downingtown, Pennsylvania, who hopes efforts to promote gun safety will take center stage in November's elections, including her state's race for an open Senate seat. "We might never be done with this."

That sentiment reflects the challenge for Democrats at the onset of the election year. The party won the White House and control of Congress in 2020 with pledges to manage the pandemic more competently than the Trump administration. After initially earning high marks—roughly 70% approved of Biden's handling of the pandemic from late February through mid-July—the virus' persistence has undermined the new president's message.

Administration officials

acknowledge that the public is growing increasingly weary of COVID-19.

"Pandemic fatigue is real, and all of us feel it at some point," Surgeon General Vivek Murthy said in an interview. "As a doctor, I've certainly seen it with my patients over the years. When you get tired and beaten down by a health problem—whether it's a personal health problem or a broader public health challenge—it can lead to disengagement."

The White House says COVID-19's waning as a preeminent concern actually underscores its success rolling out preventative measures, including vaccines. It argues that economic jitters now exacerbated by the pandemic eventually will ease.

Still, with Democrats likely struggling to campaign on the idea that they've now defeated the virus, the other issues gaining attention among voters pose more immediate political headaches.

Nation

Bronx apartment fire kills 19, including 9 children

NEW YORK (AP)—A malfunctioning space heater sparked a fire that filled a high-rise Bronx apartment building with thick smoke Sunday morning, killing 19 people including nine children in New York City's deadliest blaze in three decades.

Trapped residents broke windows for air and stuffed wet towels under doors as smoke rose from a lower-floor apartment where the fire started. Survivors told of fleeing in panic through darkened hallways, barely able to breathe.

Multiple limp children were seen being given oxygen after they were carried out. Evacuees had faces covered in soot.

Firefighters found victims on every floor, many of them in cardiac and respiratory arrest, said Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro. Some could not escape because of the volume of smoke, he said.

Some residents said they initially ignored wailing smoke alarms because false alarms were so common in the 120-unit building, built in the early 1970s as affordable housing.

More than five dozen people were hurt and 13 were hospitalized in critical condition. The fire commissioner said most of the victims had severe smoke inhalation.

Firefighters continued making rescues even after their air supplies ran out, Mayor Eric Adams said.

"Their oxygen tanks were empty and they still pushed through the smoke," Adams said.

Investigators said the fire triggered by the electric heater started in a duplex apartment on the second and third floors of the 19-story building.

The flames didn't spread far—only charring the one unit and an adjacent hallway. But the door to the apartment and a door to a stairwell had been left open, letting smoke quickly spread throughout the building, Nigro said.

New York City fire codes generally require apartment doors to be spring-loaded and slam shut automatically, but it was not immediately clear whether this building was covered by those rules.

Building resident Sandra Clayton said she grabbed her dog Mocha and ran for her life when she saw the hallway filling with smoke and heard people screaming, "Get out! Get out!"

Clayton, 61, said she groped her way down a darkened stairway, clutching Mocha in her arms. The smoke was so black that she couldn't see, but she could hear neighbors wailing



Emergency personnel work at the scene of a fatal fire at an apartment building in the Bronx on Sunday, Jan. 9, 2022, in New York.

and crying nearby.

"I just ran down the steps as much as I could but people was falling all over me, screaming," Clayton recounted from a hospital where she was treated for smoke inhalation.

In the commotion, her dog slipped from her grasp and was later found dead in the stairwell.

About 200 firefighters responded to the building on East 181st Street around 11 a.m.

Jose Henriquez, an immigrant from the Dominican Republic who lives on the 10th floor, said the building's fire alarms would frequently go off, but would turn out to be false.

"It seems like today, they

went off but the people didn't pay attention," Henriquez said in Spanish.

He and his family stayed, wedging a wet towel beneath the door, once they realized the smoke in the halls would over-

Harrowing tales of escape after fire hits NYC building

NEW YORK (AP)—Rancid black smoke filling hallways, rising from floor to floor. People tripping and falling as they rushed down darkened stairwells, unable to see. Panic turning to sorrow, as residents who escaped a fire at a high-rise Bronx apartment building learned of neighbors who did not survive.

"We all got out. My friend, her husband didn't make it out. So I'm just thanking God that my family made it," said one resident, Winter Thomas, who escaped from the ninth floor with her mother, stepfather and siblings.

In all, Sunday's fire killed 19 people, including nine children ages 16 and under, fire officials said.

"It don't make no sense. These is kids I grew up with, kids we went to school with," Thomas said.

On the way down, they sidestepped unresponsive bodies laying on the ground.

Sandra Clayton, 61, heard neighbors screaming in the hallway: "Get out! Get out!"

She dashed for the stairs, scooping up her dog named Mocha, a 2-year-old Maltese Shih Tzu.

The smoke smelled of putrid chemicals, she said. It was already thick and black when she found the stairwell.

She fumbled with her cell-phone flashlight, but was too much in shock. Unable to see, she groped her way down the stairs, soon crowded with other tenants. She described panicked wails and crying that echoed up and down the stairs.

"I just ran down the steps as much as I could but people was falling all over me, screaming," she recounted from St. Barnabas Hospital, where she was treated for smoke inhalation.

She fell three times, sometimes trampled by others trying to escape in the darkness.

At one point, she let go of her dog as she braced herself from a fall.

"I tried feeling for her, but there was so much smoke," she said, her voice growing emotional. "I had to save my own life."

After minutes that seemed to last forever, she found her way out of the building. She gasped for air, wondering in tears about what happened to Mocha back on the stairs.

"It was so horrific," she

said of the ordeal. "I was so scared."

Mocha didn't make it. The dog was later found suffocated by the smoke, she said.

As evening fell over the scene, Nicole Anderson counted her blessings. She suspects the fire was already burning when she and her family rode down the elevator to their car.

After driving just a few minutes, the family saw firetrucks barreling down the street, sirens and lights blaring.

"I didn't think much of it," said Anderson, 43, who grew up in the building. Soon a neighbor was calling saying their building was on fire. She turned back but could only get as close as a few blocks from her home. She walked the rest of the way.

"It was dark black smoke," she said, coming from a lower floor.

Jose Henriquez, an immigrant from the Dominican Republic, was taking care of two young grandkids and a niece with his wife. At first, he thought the fire alarm was just an irritating interruption to their morning, since he said false alarms in the build-

ing were frequent.

Henriquez said those previous false alarms might've caused residents not to take action as soon as the fire broke out.

As the dark smoke filled the hallway outside, Henriquez shut the door tight and wedged a wet towel in the gap below.

He cracked open a window, letting in the wintry air. In video he shot, the kids can be heard expressing alarm at the smoke, looking out the 10th-floor window as fire trucks rushed to the scene.

Eventually, the family squeezed past ascending firefighters, using dampened COVID-19 masks for protection against the lingering smoke, careful not to slip in pools of water.

On the way down, they passed a dog lying dead on the sooty staircase.

Luis Rosa, also on the 13th floor, had awakened to the fire alarm, also annoyed that it was probably another false alarm.

But when a notification popped up on his phone, he and his mother began to worry.

power them if they tried to flee.

Luis Rosa said he also initially thought it was a false alarm. By the time he opened the door of his 13th-floor apartment, the smoke was so thick he couldn't see down the hallway. "So I said, OK, we can't run down the stairs because if we run down the stairs, we're going to end up suffocating."

"All we could do was wait," he said.

The children who died were 16 years old or younger, said Stefan Ringel, a senior adviser to the mayor. Adams said at a news conference that many residents were originally from the West African nation of Gambia. Many survivors were brought to temporary shelter in a nearby school.

The drab, brown building looms over an intersection of smaller, aging brick buildings overlooking Webster Avenue, one of the Bronx's main thoroughfares.

By Sunday afternoon, all that remained visible of the unit where the fire started was a gaping black hole where the windows had been smashed.

"There's no guarantee that there's a working fire alarm in every apartment, or in every common area," U.S. Rep. Ritchie Torres, a Democrat who represents the area, told the AP. "Most of these buildings have no sprinkler system. And so the housing stock of the Bronx is much more susceptible to devastating fires than most of the housing stock in the city."

Nigro and Torres both compared the fire's severity to a 1990 blaze at the Happy Land social club where 87 people were killed when a man set fire to the building after getting into an argument with his former girlfriend and being thrown out of the Bronx club.

Sunday's death toll was the highest for a fire in the city since the Happy Land fire, other than the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

It was also the deadliest fire at a U.S. residential apartment building in years. In 2017, 13 people died in an apartment building, also in the Bronx, according to data from the National Fire Protection Association.

That fire started with a 3-year-old boy playing with stove burners and also spread because the door to an apartment that lacked a closing mechanism had been left open. It led to several changes in New York City, including having the fire department create a plan for educating children and parents on fire safety.

Asia

164 killed in Kazakh protests

MOSCOW (AP)—Kazakhstan authorities said Sunday that 164 people, including a 4-year-old girl, were killed in a week of protests that marked the worst unrest since the former Soviet republic gained independence 30 years ago.

The office of President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev said order has been restored in the Central Asian country and that the government has regained control of all buildings that were taken over by the protesters. Some of the buildings were set on fire.

Sporadic gunfire was heard Sunday in Almaty, the largest city in Kazakhstan, according to the Russian TV station Mir-24, but it was unclear whether those were warning shots by law enforcement. Tokayev said Friday he had authorized a shoot-to-kill order for police and the military to restore order.

The demonstrations, which began in the western part of Kazakhstan, began Jan. 2. over a sharp rise in fuel prices and spread throughout the country, apparently reflecting wider discontent with the authoritarian government. They prompted a Russia-led military alliance to send troops to the country.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken called Tokayev's order "something I resolutely reject."

"The shoot-to-kill order, to the extent it exists, is wrong and should be rescinded," he said Sunday on ABC's "This Week."

Suu Kyi sentenced to 4 more years in prison

BANGKOK (AP)—A court in Myanmar sentenced ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi to four more years in prison on Monday after finding her guilty of illegally importing and possessing walkie-talkies and violating coronavirus restrictions, a legal official said.

Suu Kyi was convicted last month on two other charges and given a four-year prison sentence, which was then halved by the head of the military-installed government.

The cases are among about a dozen brought against the 76-year-old Nobel Peace Prize laureate since the army seized power last February, ousting her elected government and arresting top members of her National League for Democracy party.

If found guilty of all the charges, she could be sentenced to more than 100



A bus, which was burned during clashes, is seen on a street in Almaty, Kazakhstan, Sunday, Jan. 9, 2022. AP

"And Kazakhstan has the ability to maintain law and order, to defend the institutions of the state, but to do so in a way that respects the rights of peaceful protesters and also addresses the concerns that they've raised—economic concerns, some political concerns," Blinken added.

The same party has ruled Kazakhstan since it gained independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. Anyone aspiring to oppose the government has either been repressed, sidelined, or co-opted, amid widespread economic hardship despite the country's enormous reserves of oil, natural gas, uranium and minerals.

About 5,800 people were detained during the unrest, Tokayev's office said.

The death toll of 164, reported by the state news channel Khabar-24 and citing the Health Ministry, was a significant increase from previously announced totals.

It was unclear if that number referred only to civilians or if law enforcement deaths were included. Kazakh authorities said earlier Sunday that 16 members of the police or national guard had been killed.

The ministry said 103 of the deaths occurred in Almaty, and Kazakhstan's ombudswoman for children's rights said three of those killed were minors, including a 4-year-old girl.

The ministry earlier reported more than 2,200 people sought treatment for injuries, and the Interior Ministry said about 1,300 security officers were injured.

Almaty's airport, which had been taken over by protesters last week, remained closed but was expected to resume operations Monday.

Tokayev said the demonstrations were instigated by "terrorists" with foreign backing, although the protests have shown no obvious leaders or organization.

allegedly violating coronavirus rules while campaigning.

Suu Kyi was convicted last month on two other charges—incitement and breaching COVID-19 restrictions—and sentenced to four years' imprisonment. Hours after that sentence was issued, the head of the military-installed government, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, reduced it by half.

Suu Kyi's party won a landslide victory in a 2020 general election, but the military claimed there was widespread electoral fraud, an assertion that independent poll watchers doubt.

Since her first guilty verdict, Suu Kyi has been attending court hearings in prison clothes—a white top and a brown longyi skirt provided by the authorities. She is being held by the military at an unknown location, where state television reported last month she would serve her sentence.

Suu Kyi's trials.

He said she was sentenced to two years in prison under the Export-Import Law for importing the walkie-talkies and one year under the Telecommunications Law for possessing them. The sentences are to be served concurrently. She also received a two-year sentence under the Natural Disaster Management Law for



Kyi

World

Death toll in rockfall on Brazilian lake rises to 10

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP)—The death toll from an accident in which a slab of cliff rock toppled onto pleasure boaters on a Brazilian lake has risen to 10, police said Sunday. Authorities worked to identify the dead and divers were searching the lake in case there were more victims.

Police Chief Marcos Pimenta said there was a possibility that some people were missing following the accident Saturday in Minas Gerais state. At least 32 people were injured, though most were released from hospitals by Saturday evening.

The accident occurred between the towns of Sao Jose da Barra and Capitolio, from which the boats had left. Video images showed a gathering of small boats moving slowly near the sheer rock cliff on Furnas Lake when a

fissure appeared in the rock and a huge piece toppled onto several of the vessels.

The bodies were taken to Passos city, where coroners worked to identify them. The work was difficult because of the "high energy impact" of the rock on the boaters, said a regional civil police official, Marcos Pimenta. He said one victim had been identified as 68-year-old Júlio Borges Antunes.

Furnas Lake, which was created in 1958 for the installation of a hydroelectric plant, is a popular tourist draw in the area roughly 420 kilometers (260 miles) north of Sao Paulo.

Officials suggested the wall coming loose could have been related to heavy rains recently that caused flooding in the state and forced almost 17,000 people out of their homes.

The head of the Applied Geology Division of the Brazilian Geological Service, Tiago Antonelli, said the cliff wall is subject to centuries of erosion and susceptible to rain, heat and cold.

"It's normal to happen in many canyons, even with rocks of that size. But nowadays, with the intensification of tourism, people are starting to get closer to these places and to register these phenomena with their cell phones," Antonelli said.

Joana Sánchez, geology professor at the Federal University of Goiás, said authorities should have been controlling the site to prevent accidents, especially in the rainy season. The boats should have been kept at least one kilometer (0.6 miles) away from the waterfall where the accident happened, she said.

US, Russia prepare to meet over Ukraine

WASHINGTON (AP)—With the fate of Ukraine and potentially broader post-Cold War European stability at stake, the United States and Russia are holding critical strategic talks that could shape the future of not only their relationship but the relationship between the U.S. and its NATO allies. Prospects are bleak.

Though the immediacy of the threat of a Russian invasion of Ukraine will top the agenda in a series of high-level meetings that get underway on Monday, there is a litany of festering but largely unrelated disputes, ranging from arms control to cyber-

crime and diplomatic issues, for Washington and Moscow to overcome if tensions are to ease. And the recent deployment of Russian troops to Kazakhstan may cast a shadow over the entire exercise.

With much at risk and both warning of dire consequences of failure, the two sides have been positioning themselves for what will be a nearly unprecedented flurry of activity in Europe this week. Yet the wide divergence in their opening positions bodes ill for any type of speedy resolution, and levels of distrust appear higher than at any point since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Secretary of State Antony

Blinken said bluntly Sunday that he doesn't expect any breakthroughs in the coming week. Instead, he said a more likely positive outcome would be an agreement to de-escalate tensions in the short term and return to talks at an appropriate time in the future. But the U.S. will have to see a de-escalation for there to be actual progress.

"It's very hard to see that happening when there's an ongoing escalation when Russia has a gun to the head of Ukraine with 100,000 troops near its borders, the possibility of doubling that on very short order," Blinken said on ABC's "This Week."

30 Nigerian students freed after 7 months

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP)—Gunmen have released 30 Nigerian students who spent nearly seven months in captivity, a government official has said, the latest batch in the release of the dozens of Kebbi state students abducted in June.

They arrived at the Kebbi state capital on Saturday along with one teacher, said a spokesperson for the Kebbi governor who did not give further details of their release. Kidnap ransoms for the release of hundreds of abducted students in the West African country are common.

The students of Federal Government College

in Kebbi were abducted on June 17 when gunmen stormed their school in Birnin-Yauri, which is about 220 kilometers (136 miles) from the state capital.

Authorities have to date not announced the arrest of any of the abductors, who killed a police officer before they drove off with the students into nearby forests—a similar pattern to the abduction of more than 1,400 schoolchildren in Africa's most populous country since the start of 2021, according to the U.N. children's agency.

Local officials were silent on the exact number of those missing from the Kebbi

school after the attack but residents had said there were more than 70.

The freed students "shall undergo medical screening and support while being reunited with their families," Kebbi governor's spokesman Yahaya Sarki said.

This is the third batch of Kebbi students freed since their abduction seven months ago, the previous group of 30 brought home in October. Local authorities and freed hostages have told The Associated Press that the students are often freed in batches and not all at once because each release comes with fresh ransoms.

Overdrive

5-minute electric vehicle charging could be here soon, professor says

By PHOEBE WALL HOWARD
DETROIT FREE PRESS

Ford Motor Co. is working with scientists at Purdue University in Indiana on a patent-pending plan to slash the average time it takes to recharge all-electric vehicles at charging stations from an estimated 25 minutes to 5 minutes.

“That’s a game changer,” said longtime industry analyst John McElroy, host of “Autoline After Hours” podcast and webcast. “All of a sudden, it makes electric far more viable for everyday use for people. It opens up the potential EV market.”

The man leading the effort, a mechanical engineer, has developed cutting-edge technology used in jumbo jets and spaceships.

Now he’s applying that intelligence to all-electric cars—and how to reduce the time it takes to recharge batteries so people don’t feel anxious about watching their vehicle run low. This is a physics class that applies learnings to the real world.

Professor Issam Mudawar, 66, a Beirut, Lebanon, native who came to the United States to study at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has spent nearly four decades developing scientific solutions to industry’s trickiest challenges.

He initially predicted a two-year window until the electric vehicle charging technology comes to market. His team is working around the clock to make it happen by 2023.

But he told the Free Press in an interview it could happen even sooner than his forecast.

Mudawar is in the final test stages for a special charging cable.

That’s it. A cable.

But what it does is magical.

Knowing that batteries can overheat when charged too quickly, automakers have been trying to figure out a way to cool down the process.

Rather than redesign the battery, work instead to cool the process down.

“Today, chargers are limited in how quickly they can charge an EV’s battery due to the danger of overheating. Charging faster requires more current to travel through the charging cable,” Michael Degner, senior technical leader, Ford Research and Advanced Engineering 1, said in November in a Ford news release. “The higher the current, the greater the amount of heat that has to be removed to keep the cable operational.”

That charging cable that plugs into an electric car resembles the hose you see at the gas station pump. The thing that



FORD MOTOR CO./TNS

The Mustang Mach-E GT Performance Edition targets an EPA-estimated range of 235 miles. Ford’s charging network offers access to more than 13,500 charging stations. This is an image of the charge port, which replaces the traditional gas tank.

transmits fuel—or energy.

But this new cable design from Purdue uses liquid to cool the cable, then turns the liquid to vapor.

This vapor element is revolutionary.

The secret

Mudawar has spent nearly four decades at Purdue developing ways to more efficiently cool electronics.

The lab in Purdue has come up with a solution to a scenario that has paralyzed the industry—where too much heat is produced to manage with available technology, Mudawar said.

Using an alternative cooling method, he and his team have designed a cable that can deliver a current 4.6 times that of the fastest available EV chargers on the market today by removing up to 24.22 kilowatts of heat, Purdue said in a news release in November. The project was funded by a research and development alliance between Ford and Purdue.

Another reason for faster charging is because the need to charge is not predictable even though it’s tracked on the dashboard screen like a fuel gauge. Battery charge is affected by speed, weather and topography.

Mudawar, by the way, decided against pursuing a career in oil painting to dedicate his life to science.

Addressing ‘range anxiety’

Worry about distance a car can drive on a battery is often called “range anxiety,” and this new technology addresses that issue. But that’s not even the best part.

“People have said that range anxiety is one of the big things. But no, no, charge time is the new range anxiety,” McElroy, of “Autoline,” said. “People think, OK, I can live with an electric car but I don’t want to be stopping for 30-45 minutes to charge if I’m on a road trip.”

Moving quickly

A prototype of this new technology, this charging cable, is being tested in the lab now. In coming months, Mudawar will study the speed of charge on various electric vehicles and move as quickly as possible to get the product to market.

While automakers led by Tesla—including GM, Ford and Volkswagen—have battery electric vehicles on the market currently, public use of charging stations is expected to surge in the U.S. with the introduction of bestselling pickup trucks.

Ford delivers to customers its all-electric Ford F-150 Lightning in spring 2022 and General Motors is scheduled to deliver its all-electric Silverado in fall 2023, which will significantly increase the number of all-electric vehicles on the road.

‘Would you care?’

Computer engineer Jim Buczkowski, a senior technical fellow and current leader of Ford’s research team, has been involved in the evolution of electronics and software for four decades at Ford including the F-150 Lightning. He said now is an especially “exciting time” under Ford CEO Jim Farley, who has committed publicly to going all-in on electric vehicles—committing billions of dollars during his first year running the company.

The faster-charging challenge can’t be overstated, Buczkowski told the Free Press.

“It’s the time that’s used to put energy back into the vehicle so you can continue driving,” he said. “Would you care if you had 125 mile range if you could get another 125 miles in one minute? But if it takes you 3, 4, 10 hours to give you 500 miles of range, that’s where the problem is. It’s the time element. You can put a hose up and get 20 gallons in 2 to 3 minutes.”

Getting the energy from the

electrical grid into the battery faster is top priority.

“Do people really want bigger batteries or more batteries or do they just want to refill the energy so they can get distance, mileage and range faster? At Purdue, we’re working to get the energy into the vehicle faster. And transferring that amount of energy can create a lot of heat,” said Buczkowski.

Tiny units of energy

When you think about fuel and gasoline, the liquid contains an amount of energy per gallon of gasoline, he explained. The energy is stored in the liquid. When the fuel is ignited and combusts, the stored energy is released. The released energy is doing the work that powers the vehicle.

Filling a gas tank is filling it with energy.

“Electricity in EVs is different,” Buczkowski said. “You’re taking electrical energy from the grid and storing it in a battery to be reused to power a motor that powers the vehicle.”

In one case, you’re taking the energy already stored in a chemical and combusting it to release the energy. In the other case, you’re taking the energy of electricity and moving it to the battery to store it. Energy in the fuel is already stored in the liquid.

A battery electric vehicle is operating off energy you transfer and store in the battery.

“When you connect the plug to the vehicle, you’re actually moving the energy from the grid into the vehicle through the wires,” Buczkowski said.

“When you fill your tank with liquid fuel, none of the energy is lost when you’re transferring it to the tank,” he said. “When you transfer energy to a battery, some of it is lost as heat in the wires as you transfer it. The more and faster you transfer the energy to the battery, the more heat you create in the wire

you’re using to transfer it.”

Electrifying cars requires a different way of thinking.

Engineers spend a lot of time trying to reduce vehicle weight so it uses less energy.

After about 300 miles or so, in general, people will need to recharge, Mudawar said. If there’s no charging station, a driver ends up on the side of the road. Like running out of gas in cars that aren’t electric.

‘Very frustrating’

“When people go to the charging station, it takes them well over 20 minutes to charge the car. They’re standing there waiting and waiting. The situation is very frustrating,” Mudawar said. “This is where our technology is able to resolve a big part of the problem. Cut down the time to something more manageable. If you cut it down to 5 minutes, it becomes comparable to filling your car with gas.”

Meanwhile, companies all over the world are trying to improve batteries. But this Ford-Purdue alliance focuses instead on battery cooling.

“When you supply electrical current through a wire, including the wires you have at home, there’s a finite amount of heat dissipated,” Mudawar explained.

This applies to cellphones charging, computer cords charging. All feel warm to the touch. And those are small batteries.

“Heat is not a problem for simple applications,” he said. “The problem comes when you have a huge amount of electric current and the amount coming out of the wire—the conductor—is enormous. Which means, you’re going to melt the insulation around it and have a disaster on hand if you don’t remove some of that heat. This is where we come in.”

Working with NASA

His expertise is transferring large amounts of heat and energy from tiny spaces. Imagine large data centers that need to dissipate large amounts of heat to keep the systems from overheating.

“Another example would be aviation electronics, the brains of an aircraft,” said Mudawar, who is also an aerospace engineer. “You have to dissipate large amounts of heat and safety is a major concern. Another is space systems. We work closely with NASA on space technologies where you have components dissipating large amounts of heat that has to be removed to prevent burning up devices.”

Purdue and Ford have done the experimental work to validate the project.

The next step is bringing it to market.

Patents and licenses

Mudawar is presently in negotiations with multiple companies with a goal of setting up a massive high-tech facility funded by automakers, investors and the government to test batteries, charging equipment. That would speed up the process.

Charging companies have been reaching out to Mudawar for weeks.

“The problem is, companies do not like to disclose what they’re working on. Because of that, they’re really shielding themselves from information available,” he said. “When you blend technical know-how with more science and physics at a university, you can come up with solutions fairly quickly.”

What’s taking time, now, is finalizing legal, licensing and intellectual property issues.

Ford has more than 2,500 U.S. patents in electrification technologies and more than 4,000 more pending, Ted Miller, Ford’s manager of Electrification Subsystems and Power Supply Research, said in the Ford news release.

1,400 ampere?

It’s worth noting that the prototype hasn’t been tested on electric vehicles yet.

However, Mudawar and his students have demonstrated in the lab that their cable accommodates a current of more than 2,400 amperes—where just a 1,400-ampere minimum would be needed to reduce charging times for large commercial electric vehicles to 5 minutes, Purdue said in its news release. The most advanced chargers in the industry deliver only currents up to 520 amperes, and most chargers available to consumers support currents of fewer than 150 amperes.

Breakthrough times

As the auto industry pushes performance limits in electrification, thermal management becomes more challenging, said Tom McCarthy, Ford director of Energy, Propulsion and Sustainability within Research and Advanced Engineering.

“If we can overcome the heat transfer problem, we can get a faster charge,” he said. “It’s really kind of asking yourself, ‘What are those technology breakthroughs that allow you to get to another level? ... This is just an exciting time to be in the industry. To find these kinds of insights and being able to do things that haven’t really been done before.’”

Life & Style

Bob Saget, beloved TV dad of 'Full House,' dead at 65

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Bob Saget, the actor-comedian known for his role as beloved single dad Danny Tanner on the sitcom "Full House" and as the wisecracking host of "America's Funniest Home Videos," has died, according to authorities in Florida. He was 65.

Deputies in Orange County, Florida, were called Sunday about an "unresponsive man" in a hotel room at the Ritz-Carlton in Orlando and found Saget

dead, according to a sheriff's statement on Twitter. Detectives found "no signs of foul play or drug use in this case."

Saget was in Florida as part of his "I Don't Do Negative Comedy Tour." After warm audience receptions to his gigs Friday in Orlando and Saturday in the Ponte Vedra Beach resort area, he celebrated online.

"I'm back in comedy like I was when I was 26. I guess

I'm finding my new voice and loving every moment of it," he posted Saturday on Instagram.

Fellow comedians and friends praised Saget not only for his wit, but his kindness.

"I am broken. I am gutted. I am in complete and utter shock. I will never ever have another friend like him," wrote John Stamos, who co-starred with Saget on "Full House." "I love you so much Bobby."

Norman Lear, who called Saget a close friend, wrote the comedian "was as lovely a human as he was funny. And to my mind, he was hilarious."

"In often a ruthless business he was historically not just hilarious but more importantly one of the kindest human beings I ever



Saget

met in my career," actor Richard Lewis wrote on Twitter.

Saget's publicist didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Saget the stand-up showed his flip side with what become a much-talked-about cameo in the 2005 documentary "The Aristocrats"—in which 100

comedians riffed on the world's dirtiest joke—that revealed his notoriously filthy sense of humor.

The longtime host of "America's Funniest Home Videos," Saget played a squeaky clean widower and father to three young girls on "Full House," the ABC sitcom that also brought fame to Olsen twins Mary-Kate and Ashley when it debuted in 1987.

'Spider-Man' stays at No. 1 in 4th weekend

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
AP FILM WRITER

Spider-Man's box office dominance continued in its fourth weekend in theaters, adding another \$33 million, according to studio estimates on Sunday. With \$668.8 million in North American ticket sales to date, "Spider-Man: No Way Home" is now the sixth highest grossing release of all time domestically. Globally, with \$1.5 billion and counting, it ranks in eighth place.

The only major new film this weekend was Universal's "The 355," an original spy thriller starring Jessica Chastain, Lupita Nyong'o, Diane Kruger and Penelope Cruz, which debuted in third place with \$4.8 million from 3,145 North American theaters. Directed by Simon Kingberg, reviews for the film about a global coalition of female spies have been less than stellar: It holds a 27% on Rotten Tomatoes.

But the audience scores have been more enthusiastic, especially from women, and about a third of the attendees

this weekend were over 45—a demographic that has not gone out to movie theaters much during the pandemic. With a holiday weekend coming up, Jim Orr, Universal's head of domestic distribution, said, "We think we'll have a nice runway."

"The 355" came in behind the animated "Sing 2," also distributed by Universal, which grossed an estimated \$12 million in its third weekend in theaters, bringing its global total to \$190.8 million.

With omicron cases surging, Hollywood has entered 2022 cautiously. January's biggest new release, the Spider-Man spinoff "Morbius," was recently pushed to April.

"There's a bit of uncertainty in the marketplace because of the omicron variant," said Paul Dergarabedian, Comscore's senior media analyst. "Studios want to protect their crown jewels and give them the greatest shot at success in movie theaters. A delay like that shows they're not giving up on the theaters. But studios are very aware of this marketplace and what the challenges might be."

'Jeopardy!' champ hits \$1 million; talks fame, trans rights

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Jeopardy!" champion Amy Schneider is adding to her list of bragging rights and admirers.

Already the highest-earning female contestant in the quiz show's history and the woman with the longest winning streak, on Friday she became one of only four "Jeopardy!" players to reach seven figures in regular-season winnings.

She's collected \$1.02 million in 28 victories, solidifying her 4th-place position on the list that includes Ken Jennings with \$2.5 million; James Holzhauer, \$2.46 million, and Matt Amodio, \$1.52 million.

Schneider, who's also fourth in consecutive wins, will com-



pete again Monday.

Poised and affable on TV and in an interview with The Associated Press, she doesn't

seem the gloating type. But she is tickled by the fact that she's fulfilled a prediction made by her 8th-grade class-

JEOPARDY PRODUCTIONS, INC. VIA AP
This image provided by Jeopardy Productions, Inc. shows game show champion Amy Schneider on the set of "Jeopardy!"

mates in Dayton, Ohio: She was voted most likely to be a "Jeopardy!" contestant, based on her geography and spelling bee prowess.

More significantly, she's the first transgender person to qualify for the show's tournament of champions. In a series of tweets last November, Schneider said she's proud to be a trans woman and wants people to know that aspect of her, adding, "but I'm a lot of other things, too!"

Golden Globe Awards carry on, without stars or a telecast

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
AP FILM WRITER

The Golden Globe Awards, Hollywood's so-called biggest party that regularly drew 18 million television viewers, was reduced to a live-blog Sunday night for its 79th edition.

The embattled Hollywood Foreign Press Associa-

tion proceeded with its film awards Sunday night without a telecast, nominees, a red carpet, a host, press or even a livestream. Instead, members of the HFPA and some recipients of the group's philanthropic grants gathered at the Beverly Hilton Hotel for a 90-minute private event, announcing the names of the

film and television winners on the organization's social media feeds.

Film winners included Will Smith for "King Richard," Kodi Smit-McPhee for "The Power of the Dog," Ariana DeBose for "West Side Story" and Andrew Garfield for "tick, tick...BOOM!"

The Japanese film "Drive

My Car," also a critics' group darling, got best non-English language motion picture, while "Encanto" won for animation.

But those following along on Twitter only might have been somewhat confused. The tweets often left out exactly which project a person had won for.

Pandemic marriage's first year leaves wife dreading a second

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I got married during the pandemic in a short ceremony. Our first year of marriage has been less a honeymoon than a nightmare. He tends to be hotheaded. He fights dirty with name-calling, which he had occasionally done previously, but since we've been living together, it happens more often.

We are trying marriage counseling, but all of his temper tantrums and antics have made me see him in a different, negative light. He's now talking about growing our family. He can be very sweet and thoughtful, but I don't even know if I still like him at this point.

I'm also wondering if I'm just better alone because I like my space and time to myself. Maybe I'm settling with the current situation when there could be someone better out there. I know the grass isn't always greener on the other side. Is this something I need to give some time to see how it plays out, or should I end it, the sooner the better?

HONEYMOON-LESS IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR HONEYMOON-LESS: The pandemic has stressed many marriages, but with the quarantines relaxing there should be less pressure and confinement. Has it helped? Whether your hot-tempered husband is capable of changing his behavior is something that may be revealed during the counseling.

You didn't mention how long the two of you have been seeing a therapist, but if it has been more than six months with no improvement, it's fair to assume he isn't likely to change, and the marriage should end. In the meantime, use the most powerful form of birth control you possibly can so you don't find yourself pregnant and trapped in a marriage from which you cannot escape.

DEAR ABBY: My mom is in a home for dementia patients, and Dad was living in their big house by himself. He couldn't sell it until everything was settled with my mom. Because he was very lonely, I decided to let him move in with me. We agreed he would pay \$320 a month. I needed the money and thought it was fair. My roommate pays \$400 a month, but I was OK with Dad paying less.

When my sister found out, she was very upset that I was charging Dad. She had him move out that day, so now he sleeps at my brother's and spends most of the day at his house.

When I turned 18 and lived at home I paid rent, so I saw nothing wrong with it. Now I am an outcast. No one talks to me except my dad, by phone. I am very depressed about this and feel suicidal. I suffer from anxiety and depression, see a therapist and have been on meds for years. Am I wrong, and how do I fix this?

GOOD SON IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR GOOD SON: If you haven't done so already, talk about this with your therapist. It is very important that he or she knows you are having suicidal thoughts and that they persist. You did NOTHING "wrong." Your father agreed to the arrangement, and he should have made that clear to your sister. She was wrong to interfere, and she seems to wield a disproportionate amount of power in your family. I can't fix that and neither can you, so you will have to find ways of coping not only with your depression but also with her. You have my sympathy.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



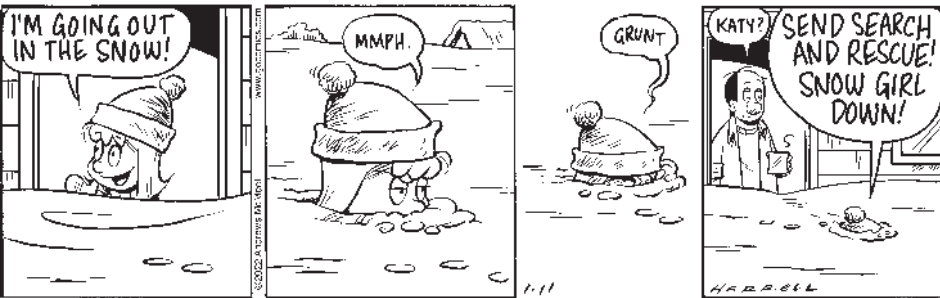
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



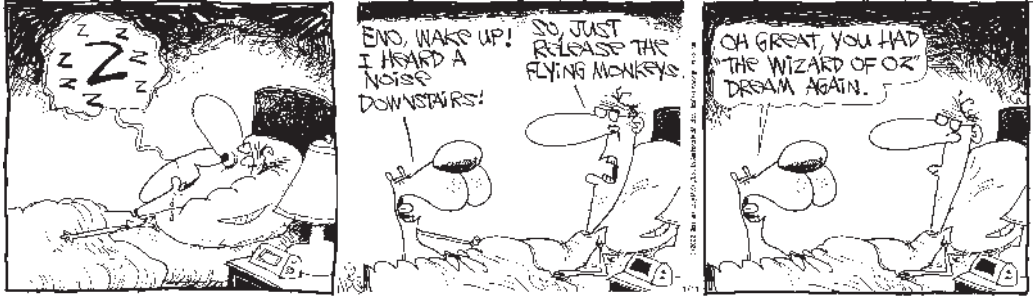
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Not so hot?

5 Dog tags, e.g.

8 Quick look

12 Anti-oxidant berry

13 French vineyard

14 Impetuous

15 Dungeon's quality

17 Actress Rae

18 Small batteries

19 Detroit hoopster

21 Like a neglected lawn

24 Coop group

25 Within (Pref.)

26 Foppish behavior

30 Caustic cleaner

31 Loud

32 Dean's list stat

33 Writer Steel

DOWN

1 Bankroll

2 Obama-care acronym

3 Scooted

4 Japanese emperor

5 Frosts a cake

6 Hosp. workers

7 Hitchcock forte

8 Overly proper

9 Bridge position

10 Canadian gas brand

11 "Star Trek II" villain

16 Aye

17 Undoer

20 "500" race

21 Use a blowtorch

22 New Age singer

23 Genesis garden

24 Salutes

26 Pretified

27 Composer

28 Detail, briefly

29 Created

31 Salamander

34 Sea off Sicily

35 "Fearless" singer

37 Boating hazard

38 Humdrum

39 "Gilmore Girls" daughter

40 Utah city

41 Use scissors

44 "Exodus" hero

45 "— had it!"

46 Museum-funding org.

47 Econ. measure

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 1-11

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Amanda Peet, 50; Mary J. Blige, 51; Kim Coles, 60; Naomi Judd, 76.

Happy Birthday: Embrace change, and turn your ideas into opportunities. Take the plunge, and live up to your expectations. Step outside your comfort zone. Trust yourself, not someone else. Make this year memorable, and you'll gain insight into who you are and what you can do. Let your imagination lead the way and your intuition keep you on track. Your numbers are 9, 17, 20, 26, 31, 39, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Monitor the changes going on around you. Don't make a move until you feel comfortable. Choose intelligence and practicality over being first. Focus on getting things right the first time. Take better care of your health and well-being. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll have trouble making up your mind. Don't expect others to agree with you or offer help without getting something in return. Put more effort into the way you look and present what you have to offer. Romance is featured. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll have the right idea, but getting others on board won't be so easy. Don't waste time trying to convince others to see things your way. Move forward alone, and let your achievements speak for you. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Partner with someone who has as much to contribute. The changes you bring about will encourage you to expand your knowledge

and skills to keep up with trends. Time spent with someone you love will enhance your relationship. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Concentrate on what you want to achieve. Physical action will be rewarding and ensure that you get things done to your specification. Refuse to let someone take over or disrupt your plans. Reap the rewards by doing your own thing. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Go where the action is, then listen and observe. The information you receive will help you decide on your next move. Don't let someone disrupt your plans. Go about your business, and let others do as they please. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Resolve financial and domestic matters. Think outside the box, and you'll come up with a plan that will save you money and encourage a positive change. Do what's best for you, regardless of what others say and do. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Do what you need to do. If you are wishy-washy, you'll confuse others, making it more difficult to finish what you start. Be open to suggestions, and do the legwork necessary to make beneficial adjustments. Romance is favored. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't mess around when it comes to the facts. Spell out precisely what you want to say, and when someone gives you a hazy response, ask direct questions. Find out where you stand, and make decisions based on facts. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Consider your options and do your homework. Have a goal in mind. Carving out a path that will make your every move count will ease stress and build confidence. Verify and process information before you act on it or pass it along. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Sit tight and listen carefully. Don't pass along information if you can't verify the facts. Consider what you can do to make a difference. Volunteer for a cause you believe in or reach out to someone who needs help. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Less talk and more action will help you gain momentum. The way you handle others will display your nerve to be a leader. Stop worrying about what others think; do what you know is the right thing to do. ****

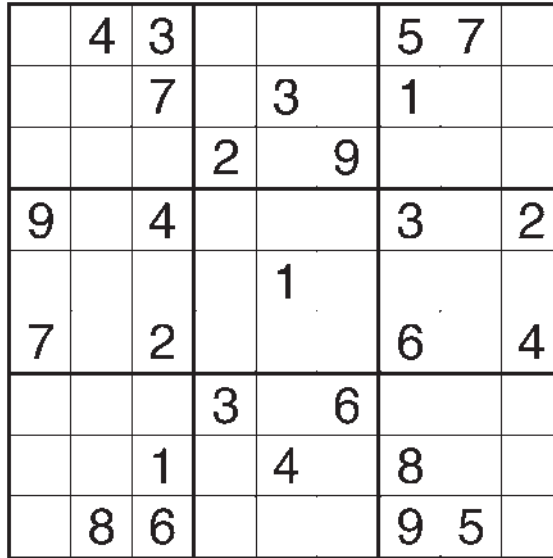
Birthday Baby: You are energetic, creative and persistent. You are confident and helpful.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



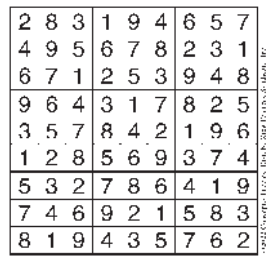
Difficulty Level ★★

1/11

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ANCIENT CLASSIC LITERATURE Solution: 7 letters

E M E L T O T S I R A S R A W
S U U L O N G U S E K E E R G
C U R I A E O S N A M O R E J
A L T I S M H O D O D P L F A
E A R O P O G I H U R Y Y F S
S R O E D I P U S O O H R U O
A O S R T O D M M T P L I S N
R T F N E T R E Y O O L C E A
S S A Y W S T E S S U R S I L
M A B E D H T O H J O V I D C
E P L C E E L E C T R A S E E
D V E U I G L I G R I V M S
E E S O H P A S A T H E O T
A I E P P O E T R Y V I L C I
Y L S E N A H P O T S I R A S

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Alcestis, Antigone, Aristophanes, Aristotle, Arrian, Caesars, Clouds, Comedies, Electra, Epic, Euripides, Fables, Greek, Herodotus, Histories, Homer, Jason, Julius, Livy, Longus, Lyrics, Medea, Meno, Oedipus, Orestes, Ovid, Pastoral, Philosophy, Poetry, Prometheus, Romans, Sappho, Suffer, Symposium, Theo, Tragedy, Twelve, Veil, Virgil, Wars
Yesterday's Answer: Vampires
To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 50, 51 and 53 through 66, order on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Raiders eliminate Chargers, make playoffs with 35-32 OT win



LAS VEGAS (AP)—Daniel Carlson's 47-yard field goal as time expired in overtime lifted the Las Vegas Raiders past the Los Angeles Chargers 35-32 on Sunday night for their first playoff berth since 2016.

And they eliminated their AFC West rivals in the process.

Las Vegas survived Los Angeles' late-game comeback built on a series of fourth-down conversions to force overtime. The Raiders won a fourth straight game and completed an incredible late-season run after losing five of their previous six.

Carlson, three times the AFC special teams player of the week this season, kicked five field goals in the game, including two in overtime.

Derek Carr completed 20 of 36 pass attempts for 186 yards, including two touchdowns. Hunter Renfrow hauled in two touchdown passes, while Josh Jacobs ran for 132 yards on 26 carries, including one score.

The Raiders, who had arguably more offseason and in-season distractions than any team, overcame multiple adversities and return to the playoffs for only the second time since losing to Tampa Bay in the 2003 Super Bowl.

Trailing by 15 in the fourth quarter, the Chargers scored two late touchdowns, with a 19-play, 83-yard drive capped by Justin Herbert's 12-yard touchdown strike to Mike Williams as regulation expired. Dustin Hopkins' extra point sent the game into the extra period. Los Angeles converted on three fourth-down plays in the lengthy drive.

49ers 27, Rams 24, OT

In Inglewood, Calif., the 49ers clinched a playoff spot thanks to Robbie Gould's 24-yard field goal with 2:45 left in overtime and a game-ending interception by Ambry Thomas.

Jauan Jennings caught a 14-yard touchdown pass from Jimmy Garoppolo with 26 seconds left in regulation for the 49ers (10-7), who are postseason-bound for only the second time in eight years.

San Francisco rallied from an early 17-point deficit for their sixth consecutive win over the playoff-bound Rams (12-5), who won the division title anyway thanks to Seattle's victory over Arizona.

Deebo Samuel rushed for a touchdown and threw a scoring pass to Jennings for the Niners, who made a deliberate 69-yard drive to open overtime. The Rams got the ball back, but Thomas picked off Matthew Stafford's long throw down the Rams' sideline.

San Francisco now has its

longest winning streak in this rivalry since the 1990s.

Titans 28, Texans 25

In Houston, Tennessee clinched the top seed in the AFC for the first time in 14 years, beating Houston behind Ryan Tannehill's four touchdown passes.

The 12-5 Titans, who secured their second straight AFC South title last week, have the No. 1 seed in the AFC for the third time since leaving Houston in 1997 and first since 2008. They also have a first-round bye.

Tannehill threw three touchdown passes in the second quarter to put the Titans up 21-0 at halftime. He tied a career-high with his four TD passes.

But the Texans (4-13) came alive in the second half, scoring 18 unanswered points to get within 3 before Julio Jones caught his first touchdown pass of the season on a 3-yard grab that made it 28-18 with about seven minutes remaining.

Houston cut the lead to 3 again when Danny Amendola's second touchdown reception of the game made it 28-25 with 4½ minutes to go. Tennessee got a first down on third-and-2 with about three minutes left and ran out the clock to secure the victory.

Buccaneers 41, Panthers 17

In Tampa, Fla., Tom Brady topped 5,000 yards passing for the second time in his career and Tampa Bay set a franchise record for regular-season victories with a win over Carolina.

Brady completed 29 of 37 passes for 326 yards and three touchdowns before taking the last half of the fourth quarter off, finishing with a career-best 5,316 yards passing and a Bucs single-season record 43 TD passes for the defending Super Bowl champions.

Mike Evans caught two of Brady's TD passes, giving him a club-record 14 scoring receptions this year. He also became the first player in NFL history to begin a career with eight consecutive seasons with at least 1,000 yards receiving.

Tampa Bay (13-4) broke the club record for victories in a regular season set in 2002 and also earned the No. 2 seed in the NFC with the Rams losing to the 49ers in overtime. The Bucs will host the Philadelphia Eagles next week.

Carolina (5-12) finished on a seven-game losing streak that leaves coach Matt Rhule's future in question.

Seahawks 38, Cardinals 30

In Glendale, Ariz., Russell Wilson threw three touchdown passes, Rashaad Penny



Las Vegas Raiders wide receiver Hunter Renfrow (13) scores a touchdown against Los Angeles Chargers cornerback Chris Harris (25) during the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Jan. 9, 2022, in Las Vegas.

ran for 190 yards and a touchdown, and Seattle spoiled Arizona's shot at the NFC West title with a win.

It was a back-and-forth game supplemented by a healthy dose of scoreboard watching. The Cardinals (11-6) were still in the running for the NFC West title with a win, especially when the 49ers beat the Rams.

In the end, the scoreboard's results were moot. The Cardinals couldn't take care of business against the Seahawks and will settle for the No. 5 seed after starting the season with a 7-0 record. Arizona is 4-6 since that hot start, including losing four of its last five. The Cardinals will play at the Rams in the wild-card round.

Seattle finishes 7-10 and won't be in the postseason for just the second time in the past 10 years. Wilson, playing potentially his final game with the Seahawks, finished with 238 yards passing.

Saints 30, Falcons 20

In Atlanta, New Orleans just missed making the playoffs, despite beating Atlanta.

The Saints (9-8) needed the Los Angeles Rams to beat the San Francisco 49ers in order to get a wild-card spot and a fifth consecutive playoff berth, but the 49ers won 27-24 in overtime.

Trevor Siemian led back-to-back scoring drives following two Atlanta turnovers late in the first half, and the Saints overcame the loss of quarterback Taysom Hill to an injury.

Bills 27, Jets 10

In Orchard Park, N.Y., Buffalo clinched its second consecutive AFC East title after Devin Singletary scored

twice in the final 8:21 for a win over New York.

The Bills (11-6) enter the playoffs as the conference's third seed, but had to await the outcome of the late game between the Los Angeles Chargers and Las Vegas Raiders to determine who they'll host in the wild-card playoff round next weekend.

The Bills actually moved up a spot in the conference standings, jumping ahead of Cincinnati after the Bengals (10-7) lost to Cleveland earlier in the day.

Steelers 16, Ravens 13

In Baltimore, Ben Roethlisberger delayed his retirement for a few hours and probably longer, guiding Pittsburgh over Baltimore in overtime and putting the Steelers on the verge of an improbable playoff berth.

Chris Boswell made a 36-yard field goal with 1:56 remaining to win the game for the Steelers, who will now make the postseason as long as Sunday night's Chargers-Raiders game doesn't end in a tie. Roethlisberger set up the winning kick when he completed a 10-yard pass over the middle to Ray-Ray McCloud on fourth-and-8 from the Baltimore 41.

The Steelers (9-7-1) and Ravens (8-9) would have both been eliminated if this game had ended in a tie.

After the winning field goal, Roethlisberger held up his right fist in celebration and went slowly to the middle of the field to commiserate with Ravens linebacker Justin Houston.

Jaguars 26, Colts 11

In Jacksonville, Fla., the Indi-

anapolis Colts badly botched a chance to secure an AFC wild-card spot by losing at Jacksonville—their seventh consecutive road loss to the Jaguars. And they were eliminated from postseason contention when Pittsburgh beat Baltimore.

NFL rushing champion Jonathan Taylor was held to 77 yards, Carson Wentz turned the ball over twice — leading to 10 points — and Indy (9-8) did little to stop the woeful Jaguars (3-14).

With a playoff berth on the line, Indianapolis was a no-show on an 80-degree day in Jacksonville. The 15-point outcome could have been a bigger blowout had the Jags scored touchdowns instead of settling for two chip-shot field goals from inside the 5-yard line.

Dolphins 33, Patriots 24

In Miami Gardens, Fla., Jaylen Waddle had a touchdown grab and set the NFL record for receptions in a rookie year, Duke Johnson rushed for 117 yards and Miami finished its season by defeating playoff-bound New England.

Xavien Howard returned an interception for a touchdown and Johnson had a touchdown run for Miami (9-8), which finished with a winning record for the second consecutive season and once again didn't have a playoff berth to show for it.

Brandon Bolden two touchdowns—one rushing, one receiving—for the Patriots (10-7), who are headed to the playoffs as a wild card.

Lions 37, Packers 30

In Detroit, Aaron Rodgers threw two touchdown passes

in the first half and sat out the second half with nothing at stake as Detroit beat top-seeded Green Bay.

Backup Jordan Love threw two interceptions late in the game, sealing a defeat that didn't affect Green Bay's playoff positioning.

The NFC North champion Packers (13-4) rolled into the Motor City after already clinching the conference's No. 1 seed and its only first-round bye.

Browns 21, Bengals 16

In Cleveland, Case Keenum got his second win, filling in for Baker Mayfield on Sunday as Cleveland ended their dismal season with a 21-16 win over playoff-bound Cincinnati, who left quarterback Joe Burrow at home and played their backups.

Keenum threw touchdown passes to Jarvis Landry and Demetric Felton as the Browns (8-9) completed a sweep of the surprising AFC North champions. D'Ernest Johnson rushed for 123 yards, and star running back Nick Chubb only had nine carries and finished the season with 1,259 yards.

Keenum, who replaced Mayfield and beat Denver earlier this season, connected with Landry on a 26-yard scoring pass in the first quarter. He later dumped a pass to Felton, who weaved his way to the end zone to make it 21-10.

Vikings 31, Bears 17

In Minneapolis, Kirk Cousins passed for 172 yards and three touchdowns in the second half to lead a Minnesota comeback to beat Chicago in a matchup of two eliminated teams with a head coach in danger of being fired.

Justin Jefferson had the tying score and K.J. Osborn caught the go-ahead touchdown for the Vikings (8-9), who gave coach Mike Zimmer plenty to cheer in this pad-the-stats game while outscoring the Bears 28-3 after halftime.

Washington 22, Giants 7

In East Rutherford, N.J., Antonio Gibson ran for a career-high 146 yards, scored a touchdown and capped his first 1,000-yard rushing season by leading Washington over New York in what might have been Dave Gettleman's final game as the Giants' general manager.

Bobby McCain returned the first of his two interceptions 30 yards for a touchdown, and Joey Slye kicked three field goals as Washington (7-10) finished a season in which it went from division winners a year ago to an also-ran.

Klay Thompson has 17 points in return, Warriors beat Cavs



SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Klay Thompson couldn't wait to get his first shot up after more than 2 1/2 years away.

Thompson's running layup 40 seconds into Golden State's 96-82 victory over Cleveland on Sunday night was a sign that the five-time All-Star is feeling just fine—even if coach Steve Kerr drew up the play for someone else.

"He wasn't shy, was he?" Kerr said. "Not that we would ever expect Klay to be shy. I drew up the first play not for him but for him to catch it and move it on. I should have known better."

Thompson finished with 17 points in his return from two devastating injuries on a night when he was the toast of San Francisco.

Thompson was 7 of 18 from the field and 3 of 8 from 3-point range. He added three rebounds, an assist and a steal in 20 minutes, walking off the court to a thunderous ovation followed by chants of "Klay! Klay!" from the Chase Center crowd.

As for the first play? Thompson said he couldn't help himself.

"I was so excited I saw a lane to the basket that I just took the opportunity," Thompson said. "After that I thought it was going to be one of those nights where I might be unconscious. I did not shoot as well as I wanted to but I'm so happy I can even look at the stat sheet and see my name there. It's been a long run. I'm not going to say it equivalent to winning a championship but it was pretty close."

Stephen Curry had 29 points, five rebounds and five assists, and Jordan Poole added 14 points for Golden State.



Golden State Warriors guard Klay Thompson, left, looks to pass the ball against Cleveland Cavaliers guard Darius Garland, right, during the first half of an NBA basketball game in San Francisco, Sunday, Jan. 9, 2022. AP

The Warriors snapped a two-game losing streak to tie Phoenix for the NBA lead at 30-9.

Lamar Stevens had 17 points and four rebounds for Cleveland.

Thompson missed 941 days and hadn't played since tearing the ACL in his left knee in Game 6 of the 2019 NBA Finals against Toronto. While rehabbing from surgery for that injury, he tore his right Achilles tendon scrimmaging on his own in November 2020.

The five-time All-Star finally made his much-anticipated return, and reached two career milestones—12,000 points and 1,800 3-pointers.

At one point Thompson brought the crowd to its feet when he drove around a defender near the 3-point line and scored on a jarring one-handed dunk. Thompson

snarled and pounded his chest as he walked back toward mid-court. Moments later he made his first 3-pointer to go over 12,000 points and put the Warriors up 49-41.

"He's been talking about how he feels and what's going to be the last thing to come back, and that was the answer," Curry said about Thompson's dunk. "It was amazing to watch and the obviously the building went going crazy from start to finish."

After spending time on a stationary bicycle, Thompson started the third quarter and made three consecutive shots, including his 1,800th 3-pointer.

"I tried to visualize this moment for years," Thompson said. "I'm just excited to get it out of the way now and I can get back in the rhythm of things. This is unbelievable.

This is worth every second."

Draymond Green injured his calf during warm-ups but convinced Golden State's coaching staff to allow him to be introduced with the starting lineup as a tribute to Thompson.

Grizzlies 127, Lakers 119

In Los Angeles, Memphis set a franchise record with its ninth straight victory, getting 16 points and a breathtaking block from Ja Morant against Los Angeles.

Morant's block came in the first quarter, when he soared from behind Avery Bradley as he tried for a layup, caught the ball with both hands and smacked it off the glass about halfway up the backboard. Morant also threw down an alley-oop dunk off a lob from Bane in the third quarter, near-

ly hitting his head on the rim a night after sitting out against the Clippers with left thigh soreness.

Desmond Bane had 23 points, Jaren Jackson Jr. added 21 and Memphis won for the 12th time in 13 road games.

LeBron James scored 23 of his 35 points in the first half for Los Angeles. He made 14 of 19 shots and added seven assists.

Mavericks 113, Bulls 99

In Dallas, Luka Dončić had 22 points, 14 rebounds and 14 assists for his third triple-double of the season and Dallas beat Chicago, running its season-best winning streak to six and ending the Bulls' at nine.

Dončić, back in the lineup after missing the previous game with a right ankle sprain, had his first triple-double since Nov. 29. The Mavericks' streak is their longest since also winning six straight in March-April 2016.

Dallas' Kristaps Porziņģis missed his fifth straight game and coach Jason Kidd his second straight while in the NBA's health and safety protocol. The Mavericks were led by assistant coach Sean Sweeney. Josh Green and Maxi Kleber had season highs with 18 points each for Dallas.

DeMar DeRozan and Zach LaVine scored 20 points each for Chicago.

Nets 121, Spurs 119, OT

In New York, rookie Cam Thomas made a runner in the lane with 1.4 seconds left in overtime and Brooklyn beat San Antonio to snap a five-game home losing streak.

Kevin Durant scored 28 points for the Nets and James Harden had 26 points, 12 assists and seven rebounds. But both struggled after the Nets had a 10-point lead with four minutes to play in regulation, forcing the extra period.

The Spurs made Durant give up the ball on the Nets' final possession and he got it to Thomas, who gave Brooklyn its first home victory since Dec. 16.

Lonnie Walker IV scored 25 points for the Spurs, and Dejounte Murray had with 19 points, 12 assists and nine rebounds.

But the Spurs couldn't get up a good shot on the last possession of regulation or overtime in another frustrating loss.

Timberwolves 141, Rockets 123

In Houston, Karl-Anthony Towns scored a season-high 40 points, D'Angelo Russell added 22 points and 10 assists and Minnesota beat Houston for its fourth straight victory.

Towns scored 22 points in

the first half as Minnesota built a 75-54 lead. He finished 15 of 25 from the floor and added nine rebounds and seven assists. Jarred Vanderbilt had career-highs of 21 points and 19 rebounds.

Christian Wood had 22 points and eight rebounds for Houston.

Clippers 106, Hawks 93

In Los Angeles, Amir Coffey tied a career high with 21 points, Serge Ibaka added 16 and Los Angeles beat Atlanta.

Coffey, undrafted out of Minnesota in 2019, is on a two-way contract with the Clippers and the G-League. He made 8 of 12 field goals and 5 of 8 3-pointer.

Bogdan Bogdanovic and Trae Young each had 19 points for Atlanta.

Raptors 105, Pelicans 101

In Toronto, Pascal Siakam had 29 points and 10 rebounds, Fred VanVleet scored 32 points and Toronto beat New Orleans for its season-high sixth straight victory.

VanVleet, who recorded his first career triple-double in Friday night against Utah, has scored 30 or more points six times in his past eight games.

Jonas Valanciunas had 20 points and 17 rebounds for New Orleans.

Nuggets 99, Thunder 95

In Oklahoma City, Nikola Jokic had 22 points and 18 rebounds to help Denver beat Oklahoma.

Austin Rivers scored a season-high 22 points and Jeff Green added 16 points. The Nuggets avenged a 108-94 loss to the Thunder on Dec. 22 in Oklahoma City.

Lu Dort scored 14 points for the Thunder. They have lost four straight.

Wizards 102, Magic 100

In Orlando, Fla., Kyle Kuzma had 27 points and a career-best 22 rebounds, Bradley Beal scored 20 points and Washington rallied in the fourth quarter to beat Orlando.

Washington snapped a two-game skid and beat Orlando for a second time this season.

Terrence Ross scored 32 points for NBA-worst Orlando.

Trail Blazers 103, Kings 88

In Portland, Ore., Anfernee Simons scored 31 points and Portland beat Sacramento.

Jusuf Nurkic had 14 points, 16 rebounds and nine assists to help the Trail Blazers snap a two-game losing streak.

Tyrese Haliburton scored 17 points for the Kings.

NBA fines Randle \$25,000 for 'egregious' use of profanity

NEW YORK (AP)—New York Knicks star Julius Randle was fined \$25,000 by the NBA on Saturday for what the league called an "egregious" use of profane language in interviews.

The league cited Randle's use of profanity in interviews with the media following a Jan. 5 practice and again the next night following a victory over the Boston Celtics.

That came after the NBA sent a memo to teams last month stressing the need for coaches and players to use appropriate language in press conferences and media interviews.

Randle gave a thumbs down to fans inside Madison Square Garden during the game against Boston, when the Knicks fell behind by 25 points before rallying, and cursed in his postgame inter-



New York Knicks forward Julius Randle (30) looks to pass the ball around Boston Celtics guard Jaylen Brown during the first half of an NBA basketball game Thursday, Jan. 6, 2022, in New York. AP

view discussing the gesture.

He explained his actions

in an Instagram post Friday, acknowledging that he

should have handled things differently.

Australian judge reinstates tennis star Djokovic's visa

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—An Australian judge has reinstated tennis star Novak Djokovic's visa, which was canceled after his arrival last week because he is unvaccinated. Circuit Court Judge Anthony Kelly also ordered the government on Monday to release

Djokovic from Melbourne hotel quarantine within 30 minutes of his decision. Government lawyer Christopher Tran told the judge after the ruling that the minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multi-

cultural Affairs, Alex Hawke, "will consider whether to exercise a personal power of cancellation." That would mean Djokovic could again face deportation and could miss the Australian Open, which starts on Jan. 17.

The Australian government canceled 34-year-old Djokovic's visa shortly after he arrived in Melbourne late Wednesday to play in the Australian Open because officials decided he didn't meet the criteria for an exemption to an entry requirement that all non-citizens be fully vaccinated for COVID-19.

Djokovic, who court documents say is unvaccinated, argued he did not need proof of vaccination because he had evidence that he had been infected with the coronavirus last month.

Australian medical authorities have ruled that a temporary exemption for the vaccination rule can be provided to people who have been infected with COVID-19 within six months.

Circuit Court Judge Anthony Kelly noted that Djokovic had provided officials at Mel-



AP
Serbia's Novak Djokovic, the Australian Open defending champion, waits at an Australian Border Force desk on his arrival at Melbourne Airport, Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2022.

officials and his own affidavit revealed a "repeated appeal to the officers with which he was dealing that to his understanding, uncontradicted, he had done absolutely everything that he understood was required in order for him to enter Australia," Wood said.

Djokovic has been under guard in hotel quarantine in Melbourne since Thursday, when his visa was canceled.

But the judge ordered that the world No. 1-ranked tennis player be released from hotel quarantine during his court hearing. It was not clear where Djokovic relocated to during his hearing. He did not appear on screen in the first hours of the virtual hearing.

Djokovic's lawyers submitted 11 grounds for appeal against his visa cancellation. The lawyers described the cancellation as "seriously illogical," irrational and legally unreasonable.

bourne's airport with a medical exemption given him by Tennis Australia, which is organizing the tournament that starts on Jan. 17, and two medical panels.

"The point I'm somewhat agitated about is what more

could this man have done?" Kelly asked Djokovic's lawyer, Nick Wood.

Wood agreed with the judge that Djokovic could not have done more.

Transcripts of Djokovic's interview with Border Force

race day. The race will start promptly at 6am or first light. An awards ceremony will commence immediately after the race.

Participants are encouraged to coordinate transportation back from the Tanapag boat

ramp to Pau Pau Beach. SSC will also strictly observe all COVID-19 protocols set in place by the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Registration for the Pau Pau to Tanapag 3K started

last Saturday, Jan. 8, and you can register by clicking your browsers to <https://www.webscorer.com/register?raceid=263714&fbclid=IwAR1vnQodk7pRqlwSjruxXZfMnm4TMNM-XdNPO4zzdUMxAt74JzbN5yDCI3k>.

GAVIOLA

From Page 20

in his first duathlon that he almost overexerted himself at the start of the race.

"It was easy at first and I thought I went too hard. I thought people were at the back of me and I said 'oh I was ahead.' It was still the halfway point and I was confident enough to make sure I was like first and stuff."

He credited Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. for the training he's been doing the past year that improved his running time.

"All that training from Edward...I give credit to him and all that hard work, blood, sweat, and tears paid off in this run. I hope to challenge more runners in these kinds of runs."

Gaviola, a 22-year-old native of Bohol, Philippines, said save for the ban on drafting

and the strong headwind coming back to Banzai Cliff, his ride went off without a hitch.

"You cannot draft for each other in the bike so I just maintained my speed to control the pace and keep my lead. The first part of the race was so windy as the headwind was very strong going back to Marpi. I always had trust on my teammate, my runner Sil-drey," he said in Filipino.

The results of the women's, and mixed relay divisions of TRAC's 6th Saipan Duathlon will be published in the following issues of Saipan Tribune.

Proceeds from TRAC's 6th Saipan Duathlon will go to the sport federation's preparations for the triathlon event of this year's Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 that the CNMI will be hosting for the very first time.

The 6th Saipan Duathlon was sponsored by IT&E.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE					WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division					Southwest Division				
Brooklyn	25	13	.658	—	Memphis	28	14	.667	—
Philadelphia	22	16	.579	3	Dallas	22	18	.550	5
Toronto	20	17	.541	4½	San Antonio	15	24	.385	11½
Boston	19	21	.475	7	New Orleans	14	26	.350	13
New York	19	21	.475	7	Houston	11	30	.268	16½
Southeast Division					Northwest Division				
Miami	25	15	.625	—	Utah	28	12	.700	—
Charlotte	21	19	.525	4	Denver	20	18	.526	7
Washington	20	20	.500	5	Minnesota	20	20	.500	8
Atlanta	17	22	.436	7½	Portland	15	24	.385	12½
Orlando	7	34	.171	18½	Oklahoma City	13	26	.333	14½
Central Division					Pacific Division				
Chicago	26	11	.703	—	Golden State	30	9	.769	—
Milwaukee	26	16	.619	2½	Phoenix	30	9	.769	—
Cleveland	22	18	.550	5½	L.A. Lakers	21	20	.512	10
Indiana	15	25	.375	12½	L.A. Clippers	20	21	.488	11
Detroit	8	30	.211	18½	Sacramento	16	26	.381	15½

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE							NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
East							East						
y-Buffalo	11	6	0	.647	483	289	y-Dallas	12	5	0	.706	530	358
x-New England	10	7	0	.588	462	303	x-Philadelphia	9	8	0	.529	444	385
e-Miami	9	8	0	.529	341	373	e-Washington	7	10	0	.412	335	434
e-N.Y. Jets	4	13	0	.235	310	504	e-N.Y. Giants	4	13	0	.235	258	416
South							South						
*-Tennessee	12	5	0	.706	419	354	y-Tampa Bay	13	4	0	.765	511	353
e-Indianapolis	9	8	0	.529	451	365	e-New Orleans	9	8	0	.529	364	335
e-Houston	4	13	0	.235	280	452	e-Atlanta	7	10	0	.412	313	459
e-Jacksonville	3	14	0	.176	253	457	e-Carolina	5	12	0	.294	304	404
North							North						
y-Cincinnati	10	7	0	.588	460	376	*-Green Bay	13	4	0	.765	450	371
x-Pittsburgh	9	7	1	.559	343	398	e-Minnesota	8	9	0	.471	425	426
e-Baltimore	8	9	0	.471	387	392	e-Chicago	6	11	0	.353	311	407
e-Cleveland	8	9	0	.471	349	371	e-Detroit	3	13	1	.206	325	467
West							West						
y-Kansas City	12	5	0	.706	480	364	y-L.A. Rams	12	5	0	.706	460	372
x-Las Vegas	10	7	0	.588	374	439	x-Arizona	11	6	0	.647	449	366
e-L.A. Chargers	9	8	0	.529	474	459	x-San Francisco	10	7	0	.588	427	365
e-Denver	7	10	0	.412	335	322	e-Seattle	7	10	0	.412	395	366

e-eliminated from playoffs
x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division
*-clinched home-field advantage

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PAUPAU

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The Pau Pau to Tanapag 3K will have registration, marking, and race briefing at the Pau Pau Beach parking lot from 5:30am to 6am on

NMIFA

From Page 20

tended by more than 50 players from the NMI national men's, women's, and youth team pool, NMIFA president Jerry Tan, and the national team coaching staff led by head coach Michiteru Mita, also featured a Q&A portion.

Female player Pia Ngewakl said the presentations were full of insights that will help her work on things she needs to move ahead with her plan to play in the collegiate level.

Jeremiah Diaz, a member of the NMI U18 national team pool, said seeing more NMI players having the opportunity to play soccer and study at the same time is very encouraging for him and other aspiring players from such a small island like the Marianas.

"Hearing from players I look up to motivates and inspires me to follow in their footsteps. I used to think that it was nearly impossible for athletes from the NMI to play collegiate soccer, but seeing that they have been noticed and they even flourish competing in that level, gives me hope in pursuing my own

dream of playing in college," said Diaz.

Giving back; getting better

Abragan and Borja were both honored to share their stories at the forum since a couple of years ago they were on the same shoes as many of the forum attendees are.

"It was a good idea by NMIFA to set up a presentation for the younger kids of the national team pool to see the process of how we, Sunjoon, Guine, and I, got into our respective college and the things that go on as we manage being student-athletes. We hope that this presentation would inspire more players to take a step to play soccer abroad and continue their education as well," Abragan said.

Borja added that players appreciate hearing stories from people they know personally, as the experiences they shared are more realistic and their goals are more attainable. Both Borja and Tenorio thanked the NMIFA for having programs that allowed them continue their soccer journey and pursue higher education at the same time.

"The level of play in the states varies depending on the conference you are in. I played teams who have won the national championship, as well as programs who are just kick starting. It really varies however, the pressure is always intense and that is something that takes getting used to," Borja said.

Tenorio, during the Q&A, said when he moved up to the collegiate ranks, he has to play at a faster pace and he is skinnier now, as he had to adapt to the speed of play and physicality. Tenorio added that the same hard work you put into soccer must be exerted in your study to keep both worlds.

Motivating players

NMIFA technical director and national team head coach Michiteru Mita said activities like the forum are critical in keeping players motivated.

"Although the opportunity to represent the country in football is a great experience, there were many cases where they quit after the tournament or when they feel burned out. To keep players motivated, they need long-term goal setting, which includes playing in the

collegiate level," Mita said.

Mita added that it's very important to know the effective process to go into the collegiate ranks so the insights from Tenorio, Borja, and Abragan were very valuable.

"Presenters gave advice on how they should research for schools, what preparations they need, and what skills they should acquire when they are on the youth national team. These three players made use of the skills they learned in the NMI youth program, created pathway for themselves, and proved that NMI players can also play in college varsity level in the mainland," Mita said.

Meanwhile, NMIFA president Jerry Tan thanked Borja, Abragan, and Tenorio for their time and for serving us inspiration to their fellow players.

"Presentations like this give our young players the opportunity to think about their options in the future. As for NMIFA's part, we are doing our best to provide as many competitions as possible for our men's, women's, and youth national teams to open more doors of opportunities for them," Tan said. (PR)



**Raiders eliminate
Chargers, make
playoffs with
35-32 OT win**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Australian judge
reinstates tennis
star Djokovic's
visa**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

NMIFA upholds creating pathways for players



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Oklahoma Panhandle State University's Guinevere Borja answers questions from her fellow players during the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association-hosted forum, Let's Talk: College and Soccer, held last Jan. 4 at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Players in the NMI National Team pools listen to the presentation of Boise State University Soccer Club's Joshua Abragan during the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association-hosted forum, Let's Talk: College and Soccer, held last Jan. 4 at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association hosted a forum dubbed "Let's Talk: College and Soccer," providing NMI players insights on creating pathways for themselves.

Guinevere Borja, Sunjoon Tenorio, and Joshua Abragan—NMI national team members and are now competing in the collegiate level—were the presenters at the forum for the NMI national team pool players held last Tuesday, Jan. 4, at the conference room of the



Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. The three shared their personal experience in college as students and players, how they made it to the team, and the challenges and opportunities they are facing trying to balance academics and sports. Borja played for Navarro College for two seasons and will

next suit up for Oklahoma Panhandle State University, while from Suffolk University, Tenorio is now with Warner Pacific University. Abragan, on the other hand, is part of the Boise State University Soccer Club.

The forum, which was at-

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Pau Pau to Tanapag 3K on Jan. 22



MARK RABAGO

The Saipan Swim Club's Pau Pau to Tanapag 3K will be held from the Pau Pau Beach to the Tanapag boat ramp on Jan. 22.

By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Saipan Swim Club will have its second competition of the year when it holds the Pau Pau to Tanapag 3K on Jan. 22.

The open water swim is a straight line distance and is just over 3 kilometers or al-

most 2 miles long. It will have three age categories—under 14, Open (14-and-up), and masters (35-and-up).

SSC coach Richard Sikkell said they decided to hold the Pau Pau to Tanapag 3K after some swimmers in the community suggested the route.

"There are a lot of swimmers out there who swim for fun or as part of a training regimen either by themselves or in a small group and a lot of them have mentioned a Pau Pau to Tanapag swim. It is a beautiful 3K with the current swim," he said.

Sikkell added that for SSC swimmers, the Pau Pau to Tanapag 3K is a nice change of pace from the usual pool practices as well as a beautiful open water swim to start 2022.

"Swimming can get very repetitive and boring so by organizing different swims

I am hoping to keep it fresh for my younger competitive swimmers, but also entice other swimmers—master swimmers—to come out and join," he said.

See PAU PAU on Page 19



Gaviola, Veloria swiftest among men



Gaviola



Veloria

By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

A wire-to-wire win in duathlon happens when you pair one of the fastest runners with one of the swiftest cyclists.

Such was the case in the men's division of the 6th Saipan Duathlon last Sat-

urday from Banzai Cliff in Marpi where Sildrey Veloria and Renren Gaviola finished first with plenty to spare.

Named D'Strikers, Veloria and Gaviola completed the 5-kilometer run, 20-km bike, and 2.5-km run in a time of 1:21:08.

Their time was a full 3 minutes and change ahead of second-placer Resm Hail Mary, made up of Jason Cao and Cesar Fortalezza, who crossed the finish line in 1:24:24. Completing the Top 3 were Jalen Lucido and Jomer Enriquez's Just-4-Fun who came in at 1:27:42.

Veloria, a 19-year-old freshman at Northern Marianas College, was so excited to take part

See GAVIOLA on Page 19

